

THE TRENDSJOURNAL®

HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS





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THE MAJORITY WANTED WAR

Welcome to this week's [Trends Journal](#): COVID-19: MADE IN CHINA

And yes, the coronavirus, be it made by scientists or made by bats, it was MADE IN CHINA. And just as China quickly imposed draconian mandates on its people – which the communist nation does whenever it wishes – the Chinese way became the way of the world.

Constitutions have been shredded and Human Rights demolished by national, state and city leaders who have taken full control over citizens... telling them what they must do, when they can do it and what they must inject into their bodies to fight the COVID War.

And as we detail in this and previous [Trends Journals](#), their battle plans have killed millions of more lives and livelihoods than the virus has killed people.

On the geopolitical front, we provide in great detail how Barack Obama's administration provoked the Ukraine civil war and the Syrian war... and how Obama's vice president Joe Biden, who supported those wars back then, is ramping them up again.

Economically, it's all about interest rates. How high will they go, what will it mean and what to do... it's all in your [Trends Journal](#), plus trends in Technocracy, Hi-Tech Science and much more.

Also, each Wednesday at 6 PM ET, I do a [one-of-a-kind podcast](#) with Judge Andrew Napolitano that provides insights and solutions from a judicial authority that you won't find anywhere else.

And for Freedom, Peace and Justice, which the world needs now, please tune into my [weekly sermons](#).

Sincerely,

Gerald Celente and the Trends Journal Team

COMMENTS

FED ON RATE HIKE TRAIL

5.1 Trillion Dollars Since 2020

Where roughly did all that money GO!??
Just have that feeling in my gut we're screwed but the Banks are saved.

Gregory Stavish

PROUD TO BE A CANADIAN

I can honestly say that this is the first time in two years that I am proud to be Canadian! When Trudope was first elected with his "Sunny Ways" campaign years ago I knew that he would by far be the worst prime minister Canada has ever seen. He is a vapid, shallow and small cowardly man who has never had an original thought in his entire career.

His previous jobs of part time ski instructor and drama teacher shows how skilled he is to run a country. His tyrannical actions over the last years has united Canadians far deeper and wider than he could ever imagine—we are all united in our disdain and disgust for him as a leader and a human being.

Canadians are kind, compassionate and loving people who look out for each other. Trudeau can't stand it. I pray that the truckers stay put until we are all free and I like millions of Canadians are ready to support them for as long as it takes. Canadian truckers, rock, eh?

Ron Pashkewych

MARKETS: CRASH OR CORRECTION?

The markets always go through cycles. And there will unquestionably be another major correction or deflationary period – call it what you will – in our future. The only question is whether it will occur gradually, or precipitously as happened on that fateful day in October, 1929. Either way, the ride will be bumpy.

EDWARD ST THOMAS

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

This old man thinks the marvelous truckers and people that love being free will always win their wants when they are right. God gives them the right and love to be free. They must win against the slobs that want to take their freedom away.

David Goldman

BIDEN BANDITS

Biden is a guy who told his law school classmates he was going into government because that's where the big money is. He has lived off of the government his whole career and sold out to China and Russia etc. when vice president in order to enrich his family. Yet, Americans vote for him. The question is why do Americans vote for him? We now pay the price again with this guy.

Robert

WAR TENSIONS & CASH-INS

A strategy of tensions has long been the preferred state of international relations for the MIC, with major wars constantly threatened and semi-permanent 'contained' wars being fought in countries that few in the West have any interest in (Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan etc).

Given the Russian and Chinese hypersonic capabilities, I can't see that NATO or the US are in any position to threaten new wars, but this is a dream situation for the Western MIC – a few hundred billion more R&D dollars will keep them happy for a year or two and this will be easily justified at the political level. I wonder if they'll be buying their Sino-Russian counterparts a drink to say thank you...

roksteady

AMERICA'S BLEAK ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Glenn Beck lays-out what is coming (financial collapse) and total financial control ("Digital Cage"). He sees this global scheme happening "soon".

My understanding is we may become similar to Communist China. What this means to me is hard times are coming to America if we do not soon wake-up and take action, as the Truckers are currently doing over Covid Vaccine mandates in Canada.

Just voting in the upcoming Midterm Elections will not stop this program (Build Back Better) or what follows its implementation. Either you take control locally or someone else will do it for you and on their terms, not yours.

Craig Bradley

NO HOPE FOR CRYPTO?

I have little hope for crypto. The governments are not going to continue to allow a monetary system, which they cannot control and compete against their own.

The inability to use crypto at point of purchase for all things and everywhere also puts pressure on crypto from being widely used/owned.

As an investment, it's fine but it's (IMO) no different than investing in baseball cards. You will only be able to sell those cards to another like minded person and with values sliding/gaining without cause, risky is the best word I can think of, to describe this investment.

Its value is only what it can attract and it's tangible use is only in regard to what can be attained by trading it hand to hand.

Krisken Robinson

Mr. Celente sees fit to accumulate gold, silver, and bitcoin to weather the coming storm. Methinks I will follow suit.

Eagle11

RADICAL EVIL

Immanuel Kant coined the term "radical evil."

It was the privileging of one's own interest over that of others, effectively reducing those around you to objects to be manipulated and used for your own ends. But Hannah Arendt, who also used the term "radical evil," saw that it was worse than merely treating others as objects.

Radical evil, she wrote, rendered vast numbers of people superfluous. They possessed no value at all. They were, once they could not be utilized by the powerful, discarded as human refuse.

We live in an age of radical evil. The architects of this evil are despoiling the earth and driving the human species toward extinction. They are stripping us of our most basic civil liberties and freedoms. They are orchestrating the growing social inequity, concentrating wealth and power in the hands of a cabal of global oligarchs. They are destroying our democratic institutions, turning elected office into a system of legalized bribery, stacking our courts with judges who invert constitutional rights so that unlimited corporate money invested in political campaigns is disguised as the right to petition the government or a form of free speech.

Their seizure of power has vomited up demagogues and con artists including Donald Trump and Boris Johnson, each the distortion of a failed democracy. They are turning America's poor communities into internal militarized colonies where police carry out lethal campaigns of terror and use the blunt instrument of mass incarceration as a tool of social control. They are waging endless wars in the Middle East and diverting half of all discretionary spending to a bloated military. They are placing the rights of the corporation above the rights of the citizen.

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TRENDS ON THE U.S. ECONOMIC FRONT



U.S. MARKET OVERVIEW

STOCKS RECOVER FROM LAST WEEK'S META-FLOP

After a sharp slide last Thursday, U.S. stock indexes rallied Friday, hauled up by a 14-percent rise in Amazon's share price and energized by a startling 467,000 gain in jobs in January, defying widespread predictions of job losses.

All three major indexes posted gains for the second consecutive week, recovering from Thursday's crater that opened when Facebook parent Meta reported a net loss of users for the first time, disclosed \$10 billion in expenses to pioneer the metaverse, and watched investors withdraw \$232 billion from its market cap, slashing its stock price by 26 percent.

After turning in its worst performance on Thursday since September 2020, the NASDAQ jumped 219 points, or 1.6 percent. The Standard & Poor's 500 climbed 23 points out of its Thursday hole, adding 0.5 percent.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average slumped on Friday's opening, casting off as much as 300 points, then made a modest gain through the afternoon before sagging at the end of the session, closing essentially flat with a gain of 16 points.

Markets stumbled in past weeks as traders pondered the impact of the U.S. Federal Reserve's pending interest rate hikes.

However, with the strong job report, traders are buying up shares in the belief that the economy is strong and growing stronger, and that Fed rate hikes won't slow down economic growth.

The tech-heavy NASDAQ's recovery was driven by a strong performance from Microsoft, with a good showing by Dow-listed Tesla adding energy to the tech sector overall.

Amazon's 14-percent gain came after the company reported its holiday-season profits nearly doubled last year's and that it would boost Prime membership fees.

Snapchat's parent company soared 59 percent after showing its first-ever quarterly profit; Pinterest rose 11 percent on reporting its first annual profit ever and showing \$2 billion in 2021 revenue.

U.S. bond yields shot up to 1.93 percent Friday from 1.82 on Thursday, the highest yield since September 2019.

TRENDPOST: *As we have often pointed out, most recently in [“Equities Continue Their Descent Into 2022”](#) (18 Jan 2022), entire sectors of the stock market, and in many cases the markets themselves, are being held aloft by the stellar performance of a few major stocks such as Alphabet, Amazon, and Tesla, while*

huge numbers of also-ran companies have been sliding for weeks. And, this further illustrates how big the “Bigs” are, and the extent of their economic strength.

Over There

Abroad, the Stoxx Europe 600 was down 0.7 percent for the week after the Bank of England raised a key interest rate yet again and the European Central Bank was seen edging toward a rate hike some time this year.

Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index jumped 3.2 percent on Friday after a three-day holiday; Japan’s Nikkei 225 grew by a more modest 0.7 percent.

Yesterday and Today

Yesterday equities drifted a bit with the Dow closing flat, the S&P 500 slipping 0.4 percent and the Nasdaq falling 0.6 percent.

Today, on some positive corporate earnings news, the Dow shot up 372 points, the S&P climbed up 0.8 percent and the Nasdaq jumped 1.3 percent.

According to FactSet, about 300 of the S&P 500 components have reported earnings, with 77 percent exceeding earnings estimates and 75 percent topping revenue expectations.

While up, they are not on the fast pace of acceleration as noted by Bank of America’s Savita Subramanian who, in a note to clients, wrote, “Despite a solid beat this quarter, guidance weakened significantly. ... Guidance is also sparser than usual—we note only 76 instances of EPS guidance issuance in [January], slightly below last Jan and the lowest of any January.”

TREND FORECAST: *What will also bring earnings down is the growing fear that the Federal Reserve—who for nearly a year said inflation was “temporary” and then “transitory” and there was no need to stop the cheap money flow—will now*

aggressively raise interest rates to slow inflation, which many “investors” believe will slow the economy.

Yesterday, the Bank of America called on the Fed to hike rates 1.75 percentage points to fight inflation.

Should interest rates hit 1.75 percent, we forecast it will drive the nation into severe recession. However, it must also be noted that with the slowing down of the COVID War, economic strength will be temporarily sustained. Therefore, we maintain our forecast that the Federal Reserve will sharply raise interest rates to slow inflation which will drag the economy into deep recession, and then sharply lower interest rates by late 2023 to pump up the economy before the 2024 Presidential Election.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that when interest rates hit above 1.5 percent to 2 percent, it will dramatically bring down equities, the economy and real estate markets.*

And with its \$30 trillion debt load, the higher interest rates rise, the more it will cost the U.S. to service its debt, which will in turn put downward pressure on the dollar.

Same with the consumer side of the economy. In 2021 total U.S. consumer debt hit \$15.6 trillion, a year-over-year jump of \$333 billion in the fourth quarter and up over \$1 trillion for the full year, according to the Federal Reserve’s New York district, which released the data today.

Therefore, as interest rates go higher, consumers will not be able to afford taking on more debt... and neither will businesses and the real estate sectors, which will in turn drag down economic growth.

To quantify the extent of this rising debt load and its implications, the quarterly rise was the biggest since 2007—the eve of the Panic of ’08—and it was the largest annual gain ever.

China Won Trade War

Barely making the U.S. news is that once again, despite four years of Donald Trump fighting the Chinese in his Trade War to limit their exports, Today, the Commerce Department reported that the U.S. trade deficit hit a new record in 2021.

Imports for the year spiked 20.5 percent to \$3.39 trillion from 2020. On the U.S. export side, while they rose 18.5 percent, it totaled only \$2.53 trillion for the year.

Falling short of its purchase agreements made with Mr. Trump, America's annual goods-trade deficit with China grew \$45 billion to \$355.3 billion.

GOLD/SILVER: Despite the reality of strong interest rate hikes rising the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion, gold, closing today at \$1,826.19 per ounce, is up some \$20 per ounce from last week's close. Silver was up 58 cents, closing at 23.21 per ounce, up over a dollar from last week.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that precious metals will decline as interest rates sharply rise, since interest rate hikes raise the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion.*

And as we note, but the media is ignoring, it will cost Washington much more to service the \$30 trillion U.S. debt burden... which will in turn also put downward pressure on the U.S. dollar and push safe-haven assets such as gold, silver and bitcoin higher.

And beyond government debt, the higher interest rates rise, the heavier the business and personal debt loads grow. Thus, the higher the levels of defaults, the deeper the economy falls. And the deeper it falls, the higher safe-haven assets will rise.

*Again, as we note in this and previous **Trends Journals**, global economies have been artificially inflated with years of cheap money. Therefore, when the cheap money flow dries up, most economies will sink into recession and depressions.*

And as illustrated now and in the past, when all else fails, as Gerald Celente says, they take you to war. In the current atmosphere of interest rate hikes and economic uncertainty, the United States has sharply ramped up the Cold War with Russia, its hot war in Syria and support of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia in the Yemen War.

OIL: After hitting seven year highs, oil prices dipped on the news that the U.S. and Iran were reviving their nuclear talks and that the U.S. would remove oil sanctions on Iran which would in turn increase supply. However, prices are still up sharply from a year ago, with Brent Crude falling 1.82 percent, closing at \$91.00 per barrel today, and West Texas Intermediate slipping 1.9 percent, to finish the day at \$89.57 per barrel.

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that military tensions in the Middle East and Ukraine will continue to be major factors that could spike oil and natural gas prices higher.*

The more war talk and military actions escalate, the higher oil prices will rise, which in turn will dramatically push inflation higher. As inflation spikes it will force central banks to radically raise interest rates to fight it... which will sharply drive down equity markets and economies as money becomes too expensive to borrow.

And should Brent Crude spike above \$100 per barrel, with interest rates rising and oil prices moving higher, it will put strong downward spending pressure on the general public.

BITCOIN: Bitcoin's price grew 10 percent yesterday, rising back above \$40,000 after falling below that benchmark on 20 January.

As noted over the past several weeks in the **Trends Journal**, while the word on The Street has been that the glory days of bitcoin are over, we have disagreed. As we go to press it is holding in the \$44K per coin range which is up some \$6K

per coin since last week. Thus, those who played that market made a profitable play.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have been noting for over five years, a major factor in forecasting the future price of bitcoin and other crypto currencies is dependent upon government regulations.*

The recent downward pushes in price followed the prospects that the U.S. Federal Reserve is on the path of creating a digital dollar. And as we have been reporting, a number of nations are also taking measures that would create their own digital coins while restricting crypto growth.

We maintain our forecast that bitcoin will find strength to hit new highs when it breaks above \$55,500 per coin. We had also forecast, the downward breakout point would be hit should prices fall below \$25,000 per coin. If they go that low, bitcoin could well fall back to the \$10,000 range.

(For more crypto trends and forecasts, please see our TRENDS IN CRYPTOS section.)

U.S. PUBLIC DEBT TOPS \$30 TRILLION. WHO CARES?



On 1 February, the U.S. national debt soared past \$30 trillion for the first time, as inflation raged at 7 percent last month and the U.S. Federal Reserve prepared to raise interest rates.

The economy reached the milestone earlier than the expected date of late 2025, due to the federal government's \$5 trillion of extra spending to artificially boost up the economy during the COVID War, pumping in cheap money that was borrowed to pay stipends to families, make grants and loans to businesses, and cover extra health care costs.

Last year, also for the first time, the value of the federal government's debt exceeded the country's annual economic output.

"Hitting the \$30-trillion mark is clearly an important milestone in our dangerous fiscal trajectory," CEO Michael Peterson of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, told *The New York Times*.

The foundation advocates for balanced budgets and reductions in public spending.

"For many years before COVID, America had an unsustainable structural fiscal path because the programs we've designed are not sufficiently funded by the revenue we take in," he said.

TRENDPOST: *Democrats in Congress have always prioritized spending over balanced budgets. President Joe Biden's \$1.9-trillion American Rescue Plan, passed last year, was affordable because interest rates were so low, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told Congress.*

But now the Treasury Secretary, who was the former Fed Head, has not mentioned a peep about the debt not being affordable because interest rates are so high!

Therefore, with rates set to rise, it totally invalidates Ms. Yellen's contention.

TREND FORECAST: *Most market-watchers are forecasting four or five rate boosts this year, putting a key Fed rate to 1 or 1.25 percent before next year. And as we have forecast, should rates spike to the 1.5 percent, 2 percent range, it will sink the nation into recession.*

The Government Game

The Fed also has kept interest rates low by buying bonds at artificially low interest rates, a practice it will likely end next month and will begin selling off the bonds it holds.

In his 2016 presidential campaign, Donald Trump promised to balance the federal budget. Instead, in a 2017 party-line vote, Republicans cut federal tax revenues by \$1.5 trillion, sending the annual deficit over \$1 trillion for the first time, even before the COVID virus arrived.

And as we have reported, according to the Tax Policy Center, the one percent got 82 percent of the tax-cut benefits. And rather than the money that enriched corporations being invested back into their businesses, which was the line being sold by Trump, they instead spent nearly a trillion dollars in stock buy-backs.

Double Talk

While President Joe Biden and Democrats in Congress proposed trillions in new spending last year, Republicans staged a protest about raising the nation's debt ceiling to pay bills that came due under budgets Republicans previously voted for, risking a first-ever federal default.

Finally, in December both parties passed a bill that raised the debt ceiling to \$31.4 trillion.

Rising interest rates and growing health care spending for an aging population heighten the risk of a "fiscal crisis" and loss of confidence in the U.S. dollar, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) warned last year.

If interest rates rise in the way the CBO expects, the government's interest payments will consume 8.6 percent of GDP by 2051, about \$60 trillion between now and then, the agency has said.

Interest on 10-year treasury notes will rise from 1.6 percent now to 4.9 percent in 2050, according to a recent study by the conservative Manhattan Institute think tank.

If rates add just one additional point, that would cost an additional \$30 trillion in interest over that period, the study concluded.

Interest on the public debt soon could be the fastest-growing segment of the federal budget, the *NYT* noted.

TREND FORECAST: As we noted in [“National Debt Highest in 75 Years”](#) (9 Sep 2020) and [“Governments Can Pile Up Higher Debt, IMF Says”](#) (2 Feb 2021), endless debt is a ticking bomb. Again, hardly a peep from the business media and government “officials,” that the higher interest rates rise, the more it will cost to service the debt.

The more the world lives on debt, the greater the risk that a single catastrophe could collapse the global economy. However, politicians will not behave with fiscal responsibility until an inescapable crisis forces them to.

Meanwhile, gold, silver, and key industrial metals such as lithium will remain safe stores of value.

U.S. JOBS BOOM. GOING UP OR GOING DOWN?



The U.S. economy gained 467,000 new jobs in January, the U.S. Labor Department reported.

The gain defied predictions that the economy would add no more than 150,000 jobs or even lose as many as 200,000.

The growth likely would have been stronger if the Omicron surge had not prevented two million people from actively seeking work in that month, the department noted.

About 3.6 million workers called in sick during January, compared to two million a year earlier and 1.1 million in January 2019.

The department also revised its November and December figures upward by 700,000 additional jobs.

“America’s jobs machine is going stronger than ever,” president Joe Biden declared on 4 February as he touted the report. “America is back to work.”

Leisure and hospitality businesses added jobs, as did transportation and warehousing, two sectors that often trim their payrolls after the December holiday season. The auto industry lost jobs as a shortage of computer chips continued to shrink production.

The tight jobs market elevated wages 5.7 percent in January, year on year, almost twice the pre-COVID annual average of 3 percent.

Pay rose briskly in business and professional services in January from December. Wages also rose for leisure and hospitality jobs, though more slowly than in other sectors, partly because pay there already had surged 13 percent last year.

The unemployment rate nudged up to 4 percent from 3.9 as more people began actively looking for work again now that prices are rising and the economy seems to be turning sunny side up.

That official rate might still mask some joblessness, as people who use up their unemployment benefits are no longer counted as unemployed.

The labor force participation rate—the number of eligible workers on the job or actively looking for one—rose to 62.2 percent, a COVID-era high but still below 2019 levels.

Still, there are about 60 people for every 100 open jobs, meaning that anyone who wants to work can find something to do. To draw those reluctant workers, many companies are continuing to raise wages, *The Wall Street Journal* said.

A strong jobs market has long been a key Federal Reserve benchmark as the central bank decides to raise interest rates and by how much.

The jobs report triggered a sell-off in treasury bonds, pushing their yields to 1.93 percent, their highest since September 2020, as investors feared the strong number would spur the Fed to raise rates higher and faster.

Bonds' prices fall in a selloff, so yields rise in order to persuade investors to buy them.

TRENDPOST: *While the job numbers show strong growth, what is not reported are the true unemployment numbers in the United States.*

For example, when someone loses their job and goes on unemployment, they are counted as unemployed. But once their unemployment runs out and they are still out of work and can't find a job, in the U.S.S.A., they are no longer counted... as human beings or being out of work. Instead, they are "missing workers."

And back on the job numbers front, in December, the U.S. economy had 10.9 million open jobs and, by most estimates, about three million people are still unemployed after the COVID War.

Some holdouts will not achieve their ambitions to become performance artists, tech entrepreneurs, social media influencers, or other goals and will return to the labor force of Slavelandia.

However, the Great Resignation, which includes Baby Boomers who cashed out of the housing market for an early retirement, has permanently shrunk the American workforce.

A smaller and, probably, a more choosy, labor force will continue to drive companies to automate, a trend well under way that we signaled years ago and have updated recently in articles such as [“Virus Speeds Automation: Bye Bye Workers”](#) (21 Sep 2021), [“No Workers? No Problem. We Got ‘Bots”](#) (5 Oct 2021) and [“Robots to Fill Open Jobs”](#) (16 Nov 2021).

CONSUMERS SWITCHING SPENDING HABITS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



During the COVID War, consumers bunkered at home and focused their spending on buying “stuff” while restaurants, gyms, and concert halls were closed and travel was restricted.

Now, consumers apparently have enough cars, couches, food processors, and home exercise equipment; spending on services is rising, bringing outlays on goods and services back into balance.

Goods made up about 31 percent of consumers’ spending in 2018 and 2019, rising to 36 percent in April and May 2021, just before COVID vaccines became available.

In December, goods accounted for 34 percent of consumer outlays, the second consecutive month of declines.

Consumers also have lost enthusiasm for buying things as inflation and supply disruptions boost prices and government stimulus payments have ended.

Prices for furniture, appliances, and other merchandise rose 10.7 percent in December, year over year, while the cost of services such as airline tickets edged up just 3.7 percent.

The recovering labor market and wages that rose 4 percent last year will give consumers additional purchasing power to invest more in services.

“The GDP growth we’re seeing now, the excess consumer savings, the customer spending in other categories, and even things like New York City rents snapping back all seem to indicate real strength for the consumer and pent-up demand that wasn’t there in the past,” David Fintzen, a vice-president with JetBlue Airways, said in an earnings call earlier this month.

TREND FORECAST: *With our forecast of the COVID War winding down by late March, mid-April—and draconian mandates being lifted—the once sheltered-in-place population wants to let loose, go out, dine out, travel, and spend on entertainment. Therefore, there will be a continuing shift away from hard goods to services.*

At that point, the economy will begin to settle into a new “normal” that will include permanent changes including remote work and the speedier transition to more widespread automation.

BOUNCE BACK? FACTORY ORDERS FALL MOST SINCE APRIL 2020



New orders for U.S. factory-made goods fell 0.4 percent in January, the largest month-to-month decline since April 2020 at the start of the COVID War, the U.S. commerce department reported.

The consensus among economists was for a 0.2-percent slip, only half the recorded slide.

Meanwhile, the cost of U.S.-made goods climbed 0.5 percent in December, excluding food and energy expenses, the U.S. labor department said.

The cost for processed materials that factories use, minus the cost of food and energy—which some consider a more accurate measure of producer-price gains—was up 0.7 percent.

Orders for nondurable goods declined by 0.2 percent for the month, while the U.S. Consumer Price Index, including volatile energy and food prices, jumped 0.9 percent.

The measure of core capital goods (CCG) is considered a measure of business investment, because it excludes defense and transportation purchases that are most often made by government agencies.

The CCG index moved up 0.3 percent in December, less in value than the 0.6-percent price hike in the Producer Price Index, which measures the prices that factories put on their products as they leave the production line.

November's figure was revised higher, with orders growing by 1.8 percent instead of the 1.6 percent previously reported.

The price of U.S.-produced goods increased 0.9 percent in December, the labor department said.

The value of orders for construction materials gained 1.3 percent in December and 17.2 percent for all of 2021. The Producer Price Index for the same materials rose by 1.5 percent compared to November and 22 percent year over year.

TREND FORECAST: As we noted in “CONSUMERS SWITCHING SPENDING HABITS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?” in this issue, it means that people will be buying less hard products which they splurged on for some two years, and will

instead put their money into services, thus lowering the need for factory made goods.

In addition, inflation is eating away at their disposable income levels, while American manufactured products continue to lose market share to overseas competitors.

TRENDS ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC FRONT



BOND DUMP ON PARADE

Around the world, investors sold bonds on 3 February as central banks acted, or hinted at impending actions, to raise interest rates and end bond-buying programs that had been launched to stabilize COVID-era economies.

At a 3 February press conference, Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank (ECB), refused to reiterate her often-stated position that the bank will not raise interest rates this year (see related story in this issue).

At the press briefing, Lagarde changed her tune saying inflation's risk is "tilted toward the upside" after Europe's inflation rate reached a 22-year record of 5.1 percent last month.

Although the ECB's policy committee voted to hold rates steady this time, "one or two" members pressed for a rate hike now, persons familiar told the *Financial Times*.

Lagarde would not repeat her insistence that the ECB will hold rates steady through this year, "the situation having changed."

Her comments were "a reality check" for markets, analyst Frederick Ducrozet at Pictet Wealth Management said to the *FT*, and traders interpreted Lagarde's wording as indicating the ECB could raise interest rates as soon as next month, the *FT* noted.

Lagarde "opened the door to a speeding up of asset purchase reductions and a rate hike this year," agreed Carsten Brzeski, ING's chief of macro research.

The Bank of England (BOE) raised its key rate by a quarter of a percentage point twice in two consecutive meetings, with four of the nine rate-setting committee members pushing for a 0.5-point hike instead (see related story in this issue).

"Central banks have been wrong on inflation and now they're needing to play catch-up," Mark Dowding, chief investment officer at BlueBay Asset Management, said to the *FT*. "Financial markets don't like what they're hearing."

TREND FORECAST: *It's a law of economic nature: when interest rates sharply rise, equity markets fall.*

Bonds with yields that rise with inflation and many consumer-products stocks will stay above water as central banks continue to raise rates, but equity, housing, and other markets will suffer.

As we have said repeatedly, when the U.S. Federal Reserve pushes its key rate to 1.5 percent to 2 percent, U.S. markets will tank.

The same goes for the EU. Their economy has long been artificially inflated with negative interest rates and massive quantitative easing. When interest rates in

the EU rise above 1 percent, the entire zone will sink into a deep recession. And as economic conditions decline, there will also be geopolitical unrest rising throughout the region.

As rates rise, so will prices for gold, silver, and increasingly scarce industrial metals such as cobalt and lithium.

ECB ABOUT FACE: INTEREST RATE HIKES



In its meeting on 3 February, the European Central Bank's (ECB's) governing council agreed that it should not rule out the possibility of raising interest rates some time this year, insiders who asked not to be named told Bloomberg.

The Eurozone's annual inflation rate climbed to 5.1 percent in January, its highest in more than two decades and more than twice the ECB's 2-percent target rate.

The discussions involved the prospect of a rate hike as soon as next month, the sources said.

The bank also could end its bond-buying program in this year's third quarter, the sources said.

Any change in policy this year would contradict repeated declarations by bank president Christine Lagarde that Europe's economic recovery remains too fragile to bear higher rates and that the ECB's interest rates would not change until at least 2024, as we have noted articles such as ["ECB: More Monetary Methadone"](#) (27 Apr 2021).

As recently as November, Lagarde stated that the bank would not budge rates from their current -0.50 in 2022 ([“Will ECB Hold to Negative Interest Rate?”](#) 2 Nov 2021).

At her 3 February press conference, Lagarde announced the bank would hold rates steady for now but did not repeat her past insistence that the bank would not boost rates this year.

“Compared with our expectations in December, risks to the inflation outlook are tilted to the upside, particularly in the near term,” she said.

“There also was a concern and a determination [among the bank’s policy committee] not to rush into a decision unless we had a proper and thorough assessment based on data and the analytical work that will take place in the next few weeks,” she added.

As she spoke, market traders priced in a rate lift sooner than has been expected.

Europe’s inflation rate rose to 5 percent through 2021, the highest since the European Union instituted the euro currency in 1999.

In January, prices rose 5.1 percent year over year, defying analysts’ expectations that its pace would slow to 4.4 percent last month.

TREND FORECAST: *Lagarde has come down with The Jerome Powell Syndrome, repeating the U.S. Federal Reserve chair’s insistence that inflation was not a problem ([“Fed Holds Firm on Policy Despite 5-Percent Inflation,”](#) 20 Jul 2021), was temporary ([“U.S. Market Overview,”](#) 13 Jul 2021) and transitory ([“Fed Leaves Policy Unchanged, Acknowledges Brighter Outlook,”](#) 4 May 2021).*

Lagarde has shown the same symptoms, calling inflation transitory ([“European Central Bank Sets New Inflation Target,”](#) 13 Jul 2021) and temporary ([“Will ECB Hold to Negative Interest Rate?”](#) 2 Nov 2021).

Price hikes clouding the world's economic recovery "are of a temporary nature" Lagarde said in 21 May comments that we reported in ["ECB Head Downplays Inflation"](#) (25 May 2021).

"Underlying factors and fundamentals are certainly not there to let us... forecast that inflation will stay at these levels," she said.

At the time, inflation was at 1.6 percent; it closed 2021 at 5 percent.

The cure for The Powell Syndrome: a dose of reality.

The central bankers tried to forestall tightening monetary policies for fear of squelching the phony over-valued stock market spike and the artificially inflated economic recovery.

Now, with inflation far beyond their phony-made-up 2 percent range, they will raise rates to bring down inflation and shoot them back down when inflation stalls.

LATIN AMERICA MIGRANT WAVE COMING



After experiencing the world's worst economic contraction during the COVID War, Latin America faces a future of galloping inflation, slow growth, and higher interest rates that will keep tens of millions of people in poverty for the foreseeable future,

according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

That collision of negative forces "is a recipe for political upheaval and mass exodus to the U.S. and Europe," analysts told the *WSJ*.

GDP growth across the region will average just 2.4 percent this year, economists have predicted, the world's slowest pace, and a dramatic contrast from last year's 6.8-percent recovery.

South America specifically will grow just 1.8 percent in 2022, analysts have forecast.

Almost a third of the jobs lost to the COVID War have yet to return to Latin America, while extreme poverty—defined as an income of less than \$1.90 per person per day—continues to rise.

In 2021, 86 million Latin Americans suffered from extreme poverty, compared to 81 million in 2020, according to United Nations figures, a stark reversal of gains made from 2003 to 2019, when the proportion of Latin Americans living in poverty dropped from 45 percent to 30, the *WSJ* noted.

Before the COVID virus invaded, about 70 million lived in extreme poverty.

Last year saw a record number of migrants apprehended at the U.S. southern border, including a record number from South America.

TREND FORECAST: *We have long highlighted the forces linking rising prices, lower quality of life, mass migration, and social unrest through articles including [“Angry. Desperate. Outraged”](#) (28 Apr 2014), [“Human Waves”](#) (4 Aug 2016) and [“IMF Follows Celente: Great Depression 2.0”](#) (21 Jan 2020).*

The sequence has played out through Latin America's history: poor economic policies, government corruption, foreign intervention, corporate monopolists, crime, violence, and other forces combine to make life untenable for the working population.

*Some take to the streets, leading to repression or revolution; others leave. Indeed, one of our **Top Trends for 2021** was [“The New World Disorder.”](#) (9 Dec 2019), which emphasized this growing wave of discontent.*

For those countries, now burdened by even more massive debt (see [“Economic Shock Wave to Hit Poor Countries.”](#) 25 Jan 2022), the future looks even more turbulent, with massive protests, rising poverty, and political instability in store.

For the U.S., Europe, and other regions beset by waves of economic refugees, the future also is darker: the growing wave of migrants will require services, even if only to return them to their home countries.

As we have long forecast, as the wave of immigrants rises so too will anti-immigrant, anti-establishment political movements.

SOARING FOOD PRICES HIT POOR HARD



In January, world food prices rose to levels not seen since 2011, according to a 3 February report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Food prices shot up 6.85 percent in December, year over year, the International Monetary Fund said, the highest since the agency began tracking the rate in 2014.

From April 2020 through last December, corn and wheat prices leaped up 80 percent, soybean prices zoomed 52 percent, and frost and droughts in Brazil sent coffee prices up 70 percent.

Prices climbed across the range of staples, including cereals, coffee, dairy, grains, meats, and pasta.

Prices of food-related oils touched heights not seen since the FAO began recording them in 1990.

Prices have been pushed up by labor and fertilizer shortages, severe weather that has damaged crops, and supply-line disruptions that have complicated sending products to market, *The New York Times* reported.

In parts of Africa and Latin America, households may be spending half or more of their incomes on food, Maurice Obstfeld, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, noted.

Asia has largely been spared because of a bountiful rice crop, while areas of the world more dependent on food imports are in danger, the FAO said.

As many as 106 million Africans now face food insecurity, an estimate by the National Defense University found, twice as many as in 2018.

Argentina, Brazil, Russia, and Turkey are paying more for food because the dollar, which is used as the trading currency for food, has risen in value against those currencies.

In the U.S., families spend only about one-seventh of their incomes on food, so much of the population is not facing hunger.

However, even there, food prices gained 6.3 percent in the 12 months ending last December, with the cost of eggs, dairy, fish, and meat jumping 12.5 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

It is not “much of an exaggeration” to say that the world is approaching a dramatic food crisis, with governments’ overstretched budgets, high unemployment in some nations, and slow economic growth creating “a perfect storm of adverse circumstances,” he said.

“There’s a lot of cause for worry about social unrest on a widespread scale,” he warned.

Food prices were trending upward even before the COVID War: disease wiped out much of China's pig herd and China cast tariffs over U.S. farm goods during the two countries' trade war.

Harsh weather in Argentina, Brazil, Russia, Ukraine, and the U.S. also has taken greater tolls on production.

TREND FORECAST: *As we noted in "LATIN AMERICA MIGRANT WAVE COMING" in this issue, food shortages are often the match that ignites social and political revolts.*

As hunger increases in poor countries, so will public anger, street protests, and governments' instability. Exploiting public anger, power hungry politicians will attempt to seize power and pick at the resentments that divide class from class and group from group.

SUPPLY CHAINS SNARLS WILL LAST LONGER THAN EXPECTED, WTO HEAD SAYS



Kinks in the world's supply chains may last through this year or even into next year, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organization (WTO), said in a 1 February Paris speech.

"We thought supply chain disruptions would be temporary," Okonjo-Iweala said. "We still think that, but they are taking longer to resolve than we expected; maybe by the end of this year or maybe into next year."

Of special concern: poor countries with small export and import industries could be priced out of the global market as freight costs continue to increase and freight companies give priority to high-volume customers.

Next month, the WTO will convene a meeting of business executives, government officials, and trade experts to strategize ways to get freight moving more quickly, she said.

Last October, Okonjo-Iweala told the *Financial Times* that logistics kinks would last “several months;” in November, she called the tangles “transitory” and said they would clear before 2023.

Then the Omicron variant appeared.

Now the virus is subsiding and “demand for goods should come down, especially with inflationary pressures and the winding down of support from fiscal measures” related to the COVID War, she predicted.

“Shipping companies are making unprecedented profits and some are investing in capacity,” she noted.

However, structural problems continue to plague the global movement of goods, she added, citing red tape and capacity constraints at U.S. west coast ports.

A pre-COVID supply chain “is unlikely to happen in 2022,” Phil Levy, chief economist at freight forwarder Flexport, told *The New York Times*. “My crystal ball gets murky further out.”

TREND FORECAST: *The word “transitory” now has the same credibility as “the check’s in the mail:” it has been abused to the point of becoming meaningless.*

Yes, supply-line blocks will dissolve and prove to be “transitory,” in the sense that they will not be permanent. However, they will take months yet to untangle in any significant way. And if military conflict in the Middle East and Eastern Europe escalates, so too will supply chain problems worsen.

The permanent positive change most likely to result from the supply chain disruption, as we have forecast as one our top trends for 2021 is Self-Sufficiency ([“Self-Sufficient Economy”](#) Top Trends of 2022, 30 Nov 2021).

China is doing it with its dual circulation policy and nations that have the human and natural resources to be self-sufficient will have the strongest economies of the 21st century.

OPEC+ CONTINUES TO RAISE OIL OUTPUT: WHAT'S THE DEAL?



For the eighth consecutive month, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its ally nations (OPEC+) plan to raise output by another 400,000 a month in February, continuing the agreement the group made as the world's economy

showed signs of recovery from the COVID War.

Last week, both benchmark Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate oil traded above \$90 a barrel for the first time since 2014.

The price increase was due, in part, to some OPEC+ members failing to produce their share of the greater output, reducing supplies below expected levels.

The price rally also has been aided not only by rising global demand, but also by fears that political turmoil in the Middle East, North Africa, and Russia's Ukraine crisis may disrupt supplies.

"There are concerns in the market, partly priced in, that OPEC+ will not be able to produce what they say," Bjornar Tonhaugen, head of oil markets at Rystad Energy, said to the *Financial Times*.

"We find that OPEC+ has failed to live up to its own pledge of increasing production according to plan," he said.

By December's end, the group's production was 824,000 barrels a day below its stated target, the group's own figures showed, according to the *FT*.

In that month, OPEC+ added only 250,000 barrels a day, not 400,000, because Angola, Malaysia, and Nigeria had not met their production targets and, for the first time, Russia did not meet its output goal.

"OPEC+ is not in any rush to raise production too quickly or to backfill for members struggling to meet their targets," JP Morgan analyst Christyan Malek told the *FT*.

"They have a plan they want to stick to and don't want to be seen as being pushed around," he noted.

TREND FORECAST: *Brent and West Texas Intermediate trading so close together in price is a clear sign that traders are expecting prices to stay high.*

U.S. oil production averaged a little more than 11 million barrels a day last year, compared to 12.29 million in 2019, according to the U.S. Energy Administration.

As we noted in our ["Market Overview"](#) sections on 20 July, 2021, the COVID-era economic shutdown drove thousands of small U.S. oil producers to shut in wells or leave the business entirely, often by way of bankruptcy court.

Now the global economy continues to stagger into a recovery, increasing demand for oil and gas as fuel as well as feedstocks for a range of industrial products.

Because of the recovery's progress and OPEC+'s shortfalls, oil is likely to break through \$100 in the very near future, especially as the summer driving season approaches and post-COVID consumers are eager to get back on the road.

Also, as we cited in our ["Market Overview"](#) of 25 January, 2022, ongoing political and military tensions in the Middle East, now coupled with Russia's threat of a Ukraine invasion, will help keep oil prices from sliding.

If oil breaks through the \$100 psychological barrier, not only will inflation spike higher, but also markets will abruptly fall while traders wait to see what the ramifications are.

LOCKDOWN CANADA LOST, KEEPS LOSING JOBS



Canada's economy erased 200,000 jobs in January, almost double the 110,000 economists had forecast, due to far-reaching restrictions on movement and business in the midst of the Omicron surge.

Unemployment rose from 6 percent to 6.5 last month, its first tick up in nine months, according to Statistics Canada.

Total hours worked had returned to pre-COVID levels in November, but now have slid back to 2.2 percent below that mark, with 10 percent of the nation's employees missing time at work in January.

The average hourly wage in Canada grew 2.4 percent during the month, compared to 2.7 percent in December.

The number of employees who worked less than half their usual number of hours in January grew 66.1 percent month on month, the largest jump since March 2020.

However, the manufacturing sector added 23,000 jobs last month, COVID hospitalizations are declining, and provincial governments are lifting virus-related restrictions.

“That’s the beginnings of a recipe for another swift post-COVID rebound, so central bankers are still on track to hike rates in March,” Royce Mendes, a managing director of financial firm Desjardins Group, said to Yahoo! Finance.

"The Canadian labor market showed impressive ability to rebound after previous waves last year, and some of the prevailing conditions that helped the recovery, like elevated employer hiring appetite, remain," jobs website Indeed’s senior economist Brendon Bernard told Yahoo.

"Progress should get back on the right track, but will require ongoing positive economic momentum to sustain it," he cautioned.

TRENDPOST: *Canada still has not learned the lesson of the COVID War: turning off the economy to halt the virus’s infection kills the patient while you’re trying to save him.*

*As we have detailed in this **Trends Journal**, out of a population of 38,271,761... some 38,000 allegedly died of the virus over the course of two years, or 0.0507 percent per year, and over the course of 24 months, it is a grand total of 0.00422 percent per month.*

And as we have noted, the vast majority were 80 years of age or older. Yet, they locked down the entire economy, on-and-off for some two years.

For more Canadian trends and analysis see, “TRUCKER’S FREEDOM CONVOY, MEGATREND TROUNCED BY PRESSTITUTES AND POLITICIANS” in this issue.

CHINA TIGHTENS TIES WITH IRAQ



While the U.S. has been ending its military and political entanglement in Iraq, China has quietly been extending its influence there by funding \$10.5 billion in new construction projects in 2021.

The initiative is part of China's strong shift of attention to the Middle East even as it pares back investments in other parts of the world, according to a report by the Green Finance and Development Center at Shanghai's Fudan University.

The nation's five-year plan to 2025 cuts capital investment in foreign countries by a third, from \$740 billion to \$550 billion, but will boost spending in Arab and Mideast nations by 360 percent, largely in energy and transportation projects, the *Financial Times* said.

China's new attention to OPEC's second-largest oil producer comes as Mideast countries see the U.S. as becoming less engaged in the region, the *FT* reported.

Under the Biden administration, the U.S. ended its combat mission in Iraq and abandoned Afghanistan after a messy exit.

China imports most of its oil from the Mideast; in return, the region is buying a larger share of its technology from China.

Iraq is China's third-largest oil supplier. Much of China's investment there has gone to rebuild failing infrastructure after decades of war and the West's reluctance to invest in a country still rife with political instability.

Now China's state-owned Sinotech and Power Construction Corporation of China have agreed to build 1,000 schools in Iraq, which will pay for them with revenue from oil exports to China.

Other Chinese-Iraqi projects include building a heavy-oil power plant, restoring the Mansuriya gas field, and rebuilding Nazriya's airport.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have often said, the business of China is business and the business of the U.S. is war and geopolitical gamesmanship ([“Top Trends 2021: The Rise of China.”](#) 23 Feb 2021).*

What the U.S. destroyed in war, China is rebuilding.

Economic partnership is a far more effective tool of conquest than bombs and bullets. Therefore, China will continue to strengthen its influence throughout Africa, Asia, and the Mideast and Arab world at the expense of the U.S. and other western powers that keep beating their war drums: Ukraine anyone?

TURKEY'S INFLATION RATE NEARS 50 PERCENT



Inflation in Turkey reached an annual rate of 48.7 percent in January, speeding past December's pace of 36.1 percent, according to the government's statistics agency, and notching the worst mark since

2002.

Electricity, food, and gas costs were key drivers of price increases, meaning that inflation is hitting the poor the hardest.

Independent economists gathered data indicating that January's rate was closer to 110 percent, leaving them open to criminal charges: as we reported in [“Turkey: A Crime to Tell the Economic Truth?”](#) (5 Oct 2021), a group of academic economists was referred for prosecution when they contradicted the statistics' agency's official October rate of 19.5 percent, claiming the real number was closer to 40 percent.

Last month, president Recep Erdogan fired the statistics agency's leader when he reported December's inflation rate ([“Turkish Lira Pauses Its Decline; Erdogan Fires Statistics Chief,”](#) 1 Feb 2022).

Turkey's currency, the lira, has been battered by the country's raging inflation, losing 44 percent of its value against the dollar in 2021.

The country's central bank has been depleting the nation's foreign-currency reserves to buy lira to shore up its value, but so far the effort has failed to reverse the lira's fate.

Last month, the bank canceled a planned 5-percentage-point interest rate cut, which has helped to stabilize the lira.

Government economic support, and its promise to make good certain losses on people's savings accounts due to inflation that we reported in the [1 February article](#) cited above, also has helped slow the lira's slide.

Returns on lira-denominated investments, adjusted for inflation, are now about -35 percent, by far the worst among emerging economies, according to Bloomberg.

Turkey's losing battle with inflation arises from Erdogan's dogged insistence that low interest rates bring down inflation, a notion contrary to basic economic theory as well as historical experience.

He ordered the bank to make four successive rate cuts last year and has fired a succession of central bank chiefs when they raised interest rates contrary to his wishes.

Read more about Erdogan's battles with economic reality in:

- [“Turkey's Central Bank Governor Fired After Rate Hike”](#) (23 Mar 2021)
- [“Turkey's Financial Markets Crash After Agbal Firing”](#) (30 Mar 2021)
- [“Turkey: Another Day, Another Central Bankster Fired”](#) (1 Jun 2021)

- [“Turkey: Interest Rates Down, Lira Crashing. War Next?”](#) (19 Oct 2021)
- [“Turkey’s Economy Continues to Implode”](#) (14 Dec 2021)

Still, Erdogan refuses to shift his policy.

“We will lower interest rates as we have done already,” he declared in a 29 January public speech, adding “inflation will decline as well.”

Still, he acknowledged two days later in another statement that Turks “will have to carry the burden of inflation for some time.”

Still, “there is no turning back” from the central bank’s policy of keeping interest rates below inflation, finance minister Nureddin Nebati said in a Nikkei Asia interview.

“We have no rate hike in our agenda,” he said, and predicted that Turkey’s inflation rate will peak in April and plunge to single digits by June 2023, when the country holds its next presidential election.

The central bank disagrees with Nebati; it has revised its inflation forecast for the end of this year upward from 11.8 percent to 23.2 percent.

“We expect inflation to hover at 45 to 50 percent throughout much of this year and, barring another collapse in the lira, it will only drop back in the final months of 2022,” Capital Economics analyst Jason Tuvey told Bloomberg.

TREND FORECAST: *Turkey’s crisis has only worsened since we wrote in [“Spotlight: Turkey in Crisis”](#) (11 Jan 2022) that Erdogan will not acknowledge the abysmal failure of his policies.*

He also is unlikely to surrender power, whatever the result of the next election: his 2018 re-election was marked by widespread claims by opponents and independent observers of ballot-stuffing and other forms of corruption.

Erdogan has framed his opposition to higher interest rates in moral and military terms, proclaiming himself an “enemy” of high interest rates and casting his policy to be part of an “economic independence war.”

It is not surprising that Erdogan frames his failed policies in warlike terms. As Gerald Celente notes, “when all else fails, they take you to war”—in this case, casting his economic failures as a response to what he will term “hostile outside forces” in hopes of unifying the nation behind him.

Erdogan has already played that card once, invading Syria in 2019 ([“Turkey Announces Invasion of Syria,” 8 Oct 2019](#)).

It’s not working: Erdogan’s popularity, which is now around 40 percent, will keep sliding along with stock values and the lira.

Turkey will continue to spiral down into economic and political chaos, prompting street demonstrations and, in all probability, violent response from government troops as Erdogan clings ever more desperately to power. Also, please see “ERDOGAN INJECTS TURKEY INTO UKRAINE CONFLICT” in this issue.

BANK OF ENGLAND RAISES RATES AGAIN



The Bank of England’s (BOE’s) monetary policy committee added another quarter of a percentage point to its prime rate, boosting it to 0.5 percent as the bank predicted the nation’s inflation rate will climb to 7.25 percent in April.

Four of the committee’s nine members pressed for a half-percent hike, which would have been the largest single jump in rates since at least 1997.

The minority vote “was a hawkish turn the market did not expect,” Fidelity International analyst Anna Stupnytska told the *Financial Times*.

The committee also voted to begin divesting the £895 billion (about \$1.2 trillion) in bonds it has bought since 2011 to energize Britain’s economy.

Bond traders immediately began dumping gilt bonds. Yields on 10-year bonds added 0.11 percentage points to 1.36 percent

Bond yields rise as bond prices fall.

The committee acted shortly after the U.K.’s treasury department announced a new £9-billion initiative to help Brits cope with energy prices that have risen by 50 percent or more in recent months.

The climbing price of fuel has contributed to an inflation rate of 5.4 percent in December, the highest in 30 years and close to triple the bank’s 2-percent target.

The higher rate will slow Britain’s 2022 economic growth to about 1 percent and shrink disposable household incomes by 2 percent this year and another 0.5 percent in 2023, the bank said in a statement announcing the increase.

The bank sees “further modest tightening” of interest rates “in the coming months” to reach the BOE’s 2-percent inflation target, the statement added.

“We have not raised rates today because the economy is roaring away,” BOE governor Andrew Bailey told a 3 February press briefing.

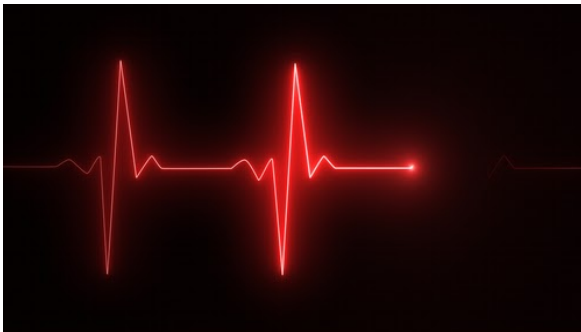
“We face the risk that some of the higher imported inflation could become entrained within the domestic economy, leading to a longer period of high inflation,” he explained.

After the committee's vote, futures traders began betting that the interest rate will reach 1 percent in May and 1.5 percent in November, a level not previously expected until March 2023.

TREND FORECAST: *The U.K. is the Western nation's interest rate raising model. At first the central bank and government deny they will raise rates, then they start raising them, and then the forecasts from the equity markets are that the interest rates will rise higher than expected.*

And, the bottom line is: The higher the interest rates rise, the deeper the economy and equity markets will sink.

PAN-EUROPEAN EQUITY MARKET BREAKS BELOW FLATLINE



On 3 February, shortly after the European Central Bank announced it would not raise rates yet, the Europe-wide Stoxx 600 equities index dipped 0.5 percent below its recent narrow trading range, what traders call a “flatline.”

Tech stocks pushed the market down, losing 1.8 percent, while telecom stocks rose 0.7 percent.

Prices slumped partly on news that the Eurozone's growth pace slowed in January.

The purchasing managers index fell to 52.3 in January, losing a full point from December's 53.3 mark.

Ratings above 50 signal growth; the higher the number, the more rapidly the economy is growing.

TREND FORECAST: The market is reacting to the threat of higher interest rates. As rate hikes come closer, markets will continue to move down.

Despite ECB president Christine Lagarde's recent refusal to restate clearly that Europe's central bank will not raise rates this year, the continent's stock market will continue to wobble downward as expectations grow that ECB will push rates higher to fight inflation.

INVESTORS FLEE INDIA'S EQUITY MARKETS



Foreign investors rid themselves of \$4.5 billion worth of Indian stocks in January, the largest flight since the COVID War began, reversing gains that the flagship Sensex index had made in the early days of this year.

“The Ukraine crisis and impending Federal Reserve rate hikes have made more opportunistic global investors nervous, triggering a risk-off move,” Praveen Jagwani, CEO of asset manager UTI International, explained to the *Financial Times*.

January was the fourth consecutive month that saw net outflows of foreign capital from Indian equities, raising the total taken out to \$9.3 billion, approaching the record \$9.9 billion that emigrated during the Great Recession.

TRENDPOST: Before the COVID War began in 2020, India had suffered six consecutive quarters of declining gross domestic product... its longest downward spell in 23 years. And as economic conditions declined, there were massive labor protests.

With the COVID War winding down and India opening up, the Sensex rose 22 percent last year. Thus, with that kind of spike, minus estimates for continued strong economic growth, market players are grabbing their profits.

BRAZIL BOOSTS KEY INTEREST RATE TO 10.75 PERCENT



On 2 February, Brazil's central bank lifted its overnight interest rate by 1.5 percentage points, the third recent increase of that size, raising it to 10.75 percent as the bank struggles to contain an inflation rate that rose to 10.2 percent last month.

The bank has raised the rate by 8.75 percent points in the past 12 months.

The bank acted after consumer prices edged up again in January.

The higher rates seem to be having their intended effect: retail sales, a key driver of Brazil's economy, has edged down in each of the past three months and December's industrial production rose for the first since May 2021.

The latest rate increase "leaves the door open for a milder hike in March," Alberto Ramos, chief Latin America economist for Goldman Sachs, said to Yahoo.

"A more moderate rate hike would be justified by below-trend real GDP growth, uncertain COVID backdrop, lagged effects of recent monetary tightening, and a better anchored real," the Brazilian currency, he said.

TREND FORECAST: *With presidential elections on the horizon and political instability having become the national norm, we forecast the nation will continue to teeter on recession. The nation is deep in debt and there are few options that will generate strong economic growth.*

SPOTLIGHT: BIGS GET BIGGER

Each week, we report instances where the money junky hedge funds, private equity groups and the already big companies swallow another piece of the global economy. Here are some more examples of what the BIGS have been gobbling up and how the Bigs keep getting bigger and the rich keep getting richer...

FRONTIER, SPIRIT AIRLINES AGREE TO \$6.6-BILLION MERGER



The U.S.'s two largest discount airlines have agreed to merge to create the country's fifth-largest air passenger carrier.

The merger will “create America’s most competitive ultra-low fare airline,” the

companies said in a statement, and help make the new entity a stronger player in the post-COVID air travel revival.

Frontier and Spirit held 5.4 percent of the U.S. air passenger market in 2019, while the “big four” of American, Delta, Southwest, and United shared 73.9 percent of U.S. ticket revenues.

“Spirit is very strong in the East; Frontier is very strong in the West,” Frontier CEO Barry Biffle told analysts on a call detailing the merger. “That’s going to drive more customers onto our existing flights, which means more low fares to more people.”

The two carriers compete in about 520 of their combined 2,800 routes, aviation data firm Cirium said.

The new entity plans 10,000 new jobs by 2026 with no current employees at either airline being fired or furloughed, the statement said, adding that it expects to “maintain all of our current bases and grow them over time.”

Denver-based Frontier will hold a 51.5% share of the new company; Spirit will own 48.5 percent.

Spirit’s shareholders will receive 1.9126 shares of Frontier plus \$2.13 in cash for each share they own.

That works out to a value of \$25.83 per share of Spirit, 19 percent more than the stock’s closing price on 4 February.

Frontier’s stock rose 3.5 percent on the news, while Spirit’s share price shot up 17 percent to \$25.46.

The new company’s board will be chaired by Bill Franke, Frontier’s current chair, who will lead a committee that will determine the name and headquarters of the merged carrier after the deal closes some time in the second half of this year.

Franke chaired Spirit’s board until 2013 and moved to Frontier shortly after.

The deal marks the first merger of a major U.S. airline since Alaska Airlines was combined with Virgin America in 2016, but may presage more.

Now airlines are competing fiercely for workers as well as price-conscious domestic leisure travelers, a market that Frontier and Spirit held during the COVID era and helped them survive the economic crisis in better condition than many larger carriers.

However, the merger may face an unfriendly regulator.

In September, the U.S. justice department asked a court to block the so-called “Northeast Alliance” between American Airlines and JetBlue, the airlines’ plan to

share coding and airline gates, coordinate routes, and combine their frequent flier programs.

Although the transportation department approved the project, the justice department called it a “de facto merger” that would decrease competition, boost ticket prices, and give American too much influence over the smaller JetBlue.

The alliance is continuing while the justice department lawsuit progresses.

“I think this [Frontier-Spirit] deal can get done, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t going to be a lot of regulatory questions that have to get answered,” Helane Becker, airline analyst at research firm Cowen told CNBC.

After surviving the COVID War on \$25 billion in U.S. government grants and loans, the air passenger industry has struggled back toward profitability.

The U.S. passenger count on 7 February this year was 1.6 million, compared to 864 million last year. The number is still far short of the same date in 2019, when 2.1 million people flew.

Frontier reported full-year 2021 revenues of about \$2.5 billion, 6 percent above 2019, with a profit of \$275 million. Spirit posted \$2.7 billion in revenue, compared to \$1.8 billion in 2020, and is scheduled to report 2021’s fourth quarter earnings today.

TREND FORECAST: *The COVID War has shrunk business travel, which has been major airlines’ key to profits, as we have detailed in [“Bid Farewell to the Business Travel Economy”](#) (29 Sep 2020) and [Europe’s Banks Permanently Slash Business Travel](#)” (4 May 2021), and other articles.*

And until and/or if governments lift COVID Vax Passport requirements and strict testing policies, a sizable sector of the population will not travel to foreign nations. This in turn will put downward pressure on the travel, convention, tradeshow, tourism and hospitality sectors

PRIVATE EQUITY'S NEW TARGET: HOMEOWNERS' EQUITY



Thanks to soaring home values during the COVID era, Americans have an estimated \$25 trillion or more in home equity, according to U.S. Federal Reserve data.

At least 42 percent of U.S. homes owned by individuals are considered “equity rich,” meaning that the houses hold more equity than is still owed on their mortgages, compared to just 30.2 percent a year ago, ATTOM Data Solutions reported.

To make use of that wealth, homeowners usually have to sell their houses or borrow against them.

Now private equity companies are funding firms such as EquiFi, Hometap, Unison, and Point that offer an alternative: they pay homeowners cash to buy a portion of their equity in return for a percentage .

Homeowners get cash without debt; investors effectively buy a savings account that they assume will rise in value along with future home prices.

Investors include Bain Capital, Citigroup, Prudential Financial, Redwood Trust, and private equity firms that have acquired a taste for residential real estate by buying rental units, Business Insider reported, a trend we have documented in articles such as [“Invitation Homes to Buy \\$1 Billion Worth of Houses This Year”](#) (1 Jun 2021), [“Blackstone Pays \\$5.1 Billion to Buy Rent-Controlled Apartments”](#) (20 Jul 2021), [“Private Equity Partners Target \\$5 Billion in Rental Housing”](#) (27 July 2021) and [“Investors Now Targeting Off-Campus Student Housing”](#) (14 Sep 2021).

"Our pitch to [investors] is, you've got a homeowner, they already own the home," David Shapiro, CEO of EquiFi, said in comments quoted by BI.

"You're not disrupting the homeownership" by buying single-family homes to rent to people shut out of the mortgage market, he added. "You're getting access to home-price appreciation in a very stable product that has a lot of protection."

Buying home equity offers "a much bigger market" than buying single-family homes to rent out, George Kenny, a Tangent Capital Partners managing director and an advisor to EquiFi, told BI.

"I think that it's going to be the next huge opportunity within residential real estate for institutional capital," he added. "That's why you're seeing all this venture and private-equity money invest in the platforms to get access to the product."

TREND FORECAST: *As thoroughly documented in our previous articles, private equity firms are taking more and more control of the U.S. housing market, grooming lifelong tenants.*

As we have forecast, the property market will contract when the U.S. Federal Reserve raises interest rates to 1.5 percent and above. As the real estate market declines in value, equity firms will begin to again ramp up home buying when they estimate prices have bottomed out and interest rates will contract.

CARLYLE GROUP PLANS NEW ROUND OF MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS



After reporting a record \$903 million in distributable earnings in 2021's final quarter, Carlyle Group, the world's fourth-largest private equity firm, plans to buy asset management companies specializing in growing markets such as

credit investment, CEO Kewsong Lee said in a *Financial Times* interview.

“We are looking for strategic adjacencies,” he said, “new markets we can scale in, and businesses that are additive to our fee-related earnings.”

Targeted areas include “credit and investment solutions,” he added.

Unlike many other private equity firms, Carlyle has been slow to diversify.

Apollo Global Management, Ares Management, Blackstone Group, and KKR are among asset managers that have already broadened their investment bases into insurance and debt instruments, among other areas, in recent years.

The private equity industry has seen a surge in M&A deals recently, with some companies selling out to larger competitors or scaling up to be listed on public exchanges as investors continue to pour money into private equity companies.

Carlyle’s assets under management grew 22 percent in 2021, topping \$300 billion. Distributable earnings reached \$2.2 billion, up 143 percent year over year. The annual dividend swelled 30 percent to \$1.30 per share.

PRIVATE EQUITY PARTNERS MULLING BID FOR SANDOZ



Two private equity groups are considering bidding to purchase Sandoz, the generic drug company owned by Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis, the *Financial Times* reported.

Blackstone Inc. and The Carlyle Group may make a joint bid, while Sweden’s EQT and the private Struengmann family may partner to make an offer, persons familiar said to the *FT*.

Sandoz, which generates about 20 percent of Novartis's revenue, could be worth as much as \$30 billion, an unnamed company executive told the *FT*.

Discussions are still preliminary and no formal offers have been made, according to the *FT*'s sources.

Novartis also may decide to spin off Sandoz as a separate entity instead of selling it to private equity firms, the sources said.

Novartis has been shifting its focus to drugs that generate higher revenue for smaller volumes, which is a drug-industry trend, the *FT* noted.

NEW YORK TIMES BUYS WORDLE



The New York Times has paid a price in “the low seven figures” to acquire the word game Wordle, which has become a sensation in recent weeks.

Software engineer Josh Wardle created the simple daily game for his girlfriend in October. By 1 November, it had attracted 90 players. Now “millions” are playing it, the *NYT* said in announcing its purchase.

The game is free to players and carries no advertising but the *NYT* did not commit to continuing that policy.

The new purchase follows the *NYT*'s \$550-million January acquisition of The Athletic, an online sports news website with 1.2 million subscribers.

The *Times* has set a goal of attracting 10 million subscribers and “becoming the essential subscription for every English-speaking person seeking to understand and engage with the world,” the company said in its announcement.

SONY BUYS BUNGIE



Sony has bought video game developer Bungie, known for the iconic Halo and Destiny series, for \$3.6 billion as part of a wave of consolidation that is washing over the gaming industry as the meta universe expands.

Growth of the metaverse is one of our [“Top 2022 Trends.”](#)

“Both Bungie and [Sony] believe that game worlds are only the beginning of what our IP will become,” Bungie CEO Peter Parsons said in a statement announcing the union.

“Our original universes have immense potential,” he added, “and, with [Sony’s] support, we will propel Bungie into becoming a global multimedia entertainment company.”

Bungie will continue to operate as an independent company, Parsons said.

Sony’s share price hopped up 4.5 percent on the news.

About two weeks ago, X-Box maker Microsoft made its costliest-ever acquisition, paying \$75 billion to subsume Activision Blizzard, maker of Call of Duty and Candy Crush, among other favorite distractions.

Sony’s purchase is, in part, defensive, according to independent industry analyst Pelham Smithers: if Microsoft were to make Call of Duty available exclusively on X-Box, Sony could counter by restricting Halo and Destiny to Playstation.

“It’s mutually assured destruction,” Smithers told the *Financial Times*.

Last month, Take-Two Interactive traded \$12.7 billion for ownership of Zynga, which lists Farmville and Words with Friends, among others, in its gaming catalog.

SPOTLIGHT: INFLATION



RETAIL PRICES RISING MORE QUICKLY

Retailers, both online and in physical spaces, are updating prices often, sometimes more than once a day, in responses to price hikes triggered by product shortages and shipping difficulties, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Quicklizard, which makes software that helps retailers automate pricing strategies, reported that about a third of the 100 retailers it works with are changing prices more than once a day, compared to 15 percent a year ago.

About 75 percent are raising prices more frequently in the past year, the company said.

Carparts.com is changing prices daily, no longer only two or three times a week, CFO David Menaine said to the *WSJ*.

B&R Stores, a chain of Nebraska supermarkets, is updating prices every week on 3,000 separate items, three times as many as in 2019, president Mark Griffin told the *WSJ*.

Constantly changing prices is tedious and labor-intensive, leading workers to put in overtime and prompting the stores to try electronic labels, Griffin said.

Retailers that fail to raise prices as their costs go up risk seeing their margins vanish, the *WSJ* noted.

“It raises a red flag for me when contractors are buying me out of something in particular,” Jeff Wachenfeld, who manages two Long Island hardware stores, commented to the *WSJ*.

“Why is everyone buying this all of a sudden? It’s because I’m too cheap,” he said.

He also is installing electronic shelf tags so prices can be updated digitally instead of by printing and pasting new labels.

ALUMINUM PRICES RISE ON UKRAINE FEARS



The price of aluminum, which has risen 24 percent since August to \$3,100 per metric ton, faces new pressures as Russia is poised to invade Ukraine.

Russia is a major aluminum producer. If it attacks its neighbor nation, western countries are likely to impose embargoes on Russian exports, cutting the world’s supply of the basic metal.

That would worsen a shortage already exacerbated by rising energy prices that have shuttered plants in China and Europe that were unable to cut costs enough to remain profitable.

Aluminum is sometimes called “congealed electricity” because producing the metal requires so much energy.

Europe's natural gas prices leaped as much as fivefold in recent months as winter began with the continent's reserves at or near record lows and Russia curtailed its export of gas to the West amid political tensions.

Sky-high energy prices have forced Alcoa to close a Spanish plant turning out 228,000 tons a year until at least 2024; Spain's electricity price set a record last year.

Norwegian producer Norsk Hydro will cut production at a European plant by 40 percent until energy prices become manageable, the company said.

Plants in France, Montenegro, and Romania also have cut back.

Europe is now producing about 810,000 tons less aluminum each year than in 2019, according to a Macquarie analysis, adding to a four-million-ton annual shortfall globally.

Aluminum stores in warehouses certified by the London Metal Exchange hold fewer than 850,000 tons, the lowest stockpile since 2007, FactSet reported.

Supplies could fall a million tons short of demand this year, Morgan Stanley analysts calculated, especially with lingering supply chain snarls slowing deliveries.

If China restarts production, any shortage could be made up quickly.

However, Beijing has capped aluminum production as part of its effort to improve the nation's air quality and meet its Paris climate commitments.

Aluminum's price could rise to \$4,000 a ton, Luke Sadrian, chief investment officer at hedge fund Commodities World Capital, said in an *FT* interview.

"When you close an aluminum plant, you're not just doing it for a couple of days," he said. "Because of the power situation, aluminum might begin to trade like an ore in short supply and be a lot more volatile."

China makes more than half of the world's aluminum; the U.S. is the metal's chief importer.

TREND FORECAST: *We have tracked the increasing shortage and skyrocketing prices of industrial metals in articles such as [“Cobalt Price Jumps as Supplies Tighten”](#) (26 Jan 2021), [“Nickel is the New Gold”](#) (21 Sep 2021) [“Lithium Prices Soar on China’s EV Boom”](#) (1 Feb 2022).*

These shortages, and the soaring prices they cause, will restrain global industrial production at least through 2025: new mines and processing plants can take years to bring into commercial operation and organized systems reclaiming and recycling these materials are in their infancy, if that.

Meanwhile, demand for appliances, electric cars, and other metal-dependent goods will continue to grow.

PRICE INCREASES BREWING AT CARLSBERG



Facing “very significant” increases in its costs, Denmark’s Carlsberg A/S, the world’s third-largest brewer, has announced it will pass those increases to its consumers.

The company will raise prices to beer drinkers by as much as 10 to 12 percent, it said in a statement.

Sales in 2021 passed pre-COVID levels, but higher costs will weigh on the company’s finances this year and higher prices “may have a negative impact on beer consumption,” CEO Cees ‘t Hart said in a statement announcing the hike.

Carlsberg's revenue expanded by 10 percent last year and operating profits by 12 percent, but the company expects profit growth of no more than 7 percent this year and said profits could even be flat.

Carlsberg also brews Tuborg and Kronenbourg 1664 beers.

Last month, Constellation Brands, which makes Corona and Modelo brews, said it will raise prices more than the usual 1 to 2 percent this year.

TRENDS IN SURVIVALISM



RUTHLESSNESS: ONE INESCAPABLE FACTOR FOR SUCCESS IN CLOSE COMBAT

By *Bradley J. Steiner*, [*American Combato*](#)

The other day we watched a video reenactment of a horrible, coldblooded murder. The victim was a police officer who had stopped a completely insane motorist. The motorist exited his vehicle and charged the Officer in a violent frenzy. The lunatic then ran back to his vehicle, all the while ignoring the Officer's clear and repeated verbal commands. The lunatic then produced a shoulder weapon from his vehicle and began shooting at the Officer.

The Officer returned fire but did not hit the lunatic. The armed madman proceeded to fire repeatedly at the Officer, and apparently hit him with at least one round. The Officer fell down and the opportunity for the nut to escape the scene was clearly present. Yet, after returning to his vehicle momentarily, the lunatic went right back to where the Officer lay. As the Officer pleaded for his life, the madman fired more rounds into him, hitting him at very close range and

killing him.

There you have an example, a classic example, of sheer ruthlessness.

Most violent scum lack anything resembling a high level of technical skill in close combat—with or without weapons of any kind. But what they do possess—in abundance—is ruthlessness. And in fact it is largely their ruthlessness that makes violent offenders so dangerous.

That living garbage is indifferent to human life, well being, and dignity. It simply explodes with whatever degree and “style” of destructive force it wishes—for whatever self-serving purpose it desires. The violent dregs of human society use murderous force to take someone else’s property, or money. If the sewage desires sexual gratification and the feeling of dominance that some predatory animals seek, it rapes.

If simple satisfaction, perhaps the delight of reveling in a sense of “machismo” is the goal, then the toxic muck terrorizes, subjugates, damages, and destroys. Violent predators do whatever their insane impulses drive them to do—like rabid dogs or rats. They are utterly and completely ruthless.

Violent predators may bear a surface physical similarity to human beings, but it is the shame of “civilizations” that these botched life forms are not regarded as the s—t they really are and destroyed upon being discovered and caught.

No doubt about it and get this straight: Violent offenders are ruthless.

The big question is: “Are YOU?”

When we insist that you must be ruthless in dealing with violent criminal attackers (and we do insist that you must be) we are emphatically not suggesting that you should be as ruthless as violent offenders are, in your normal, daily life. Your ruthlessness must be strictly limited to your unavoidable physical need when and if you are ever forced to defend yourself or someone else.

To be capable of acting ruthlessly is not the same thing as being a ruthless person.

Ruthlessness defined: We define “ruthlessness” as behavior that disregards and is wholly indifferent to the damage, injury, pain, and destruction it causes to another, or to others. It is a combination of attitude and action that callously ignores others’ suffering or loss, and that regards as significant only that which serves and affects oneself.

When you think about it, this practically defines the goddamn violent criminal psychopath and predator. And you must realize and accept this, or you will inevitably be at a disadvantage in learning how to deal with these monsters.

Normally, most people would at first blush think of ruthlessness as a synonym for antisocial. This is not true. Antisocial behavior is plainly wrong. It causes harm to others, without justification. It damages and injures simply to gratify the urges and desires of that which is quite often the psychopathic personality.

To be antisocial might very well include ruthlessness on the part of the antisocial person, but it is not, per se, “ruthlessness”.

Antisocial behavior is not justifiable. Ruthlessness can be justifiable. For example: The violent offender’s ruthlessness is inexcusable and evil. When a potential victim reacts ruthlessly to a violent offender, in order to defend himself against the offender’s attack, the ruthlessness is completely appropriate, desirable, and in our opinion, commendable.

There’s the unpleasant and politically inconvenient truth—the truth that so many “experts” and “teachers” pay no attention to, and may not even be fully aware of, themselves: Ruthless, merciless, cruel, and ferociously brutal counterforce is necessary for self-defense, and you had better make this integral to your combat mindset now, and see that you never lose sight of the reality of this truth!

If you have any human or humane feelings toward a violent assailant, heaven help you! You can rest assured that the sonofabitch has none for you. And there is no way to know if this bastard who is attacking you intends to maim or to kill you. You must assume that he is willing and able to do this, so that you do not enter upon your course of self-defense with woefully inadequate actions and attitude.

Let us reiterate an important point here, before we go further. We are not discussing competition or sport. Nor are we concerned about inconsiderate or impolite persons who make you angry, who perhaps attempt to offend you, or provoke you. Walk away from these useless a—holes.

Do not react with violence to anyone whom you know personally, and are aware from personal, firsthand experience is not dangerous. Shrug off his annoyances and bothersome conduct. Blame yourself for interfacing with such jackasses.

Our concern is defending yourself against dangerous, unknown violent attackers. In such situations “anything goes”, and your concern for any attacker should be the same as that of a physician’s for a cancerous growth!

We produce this Newsletter in order to convey the essence and spirit of real self-defense and close combat to decent, worthwhile human beings who need this knowledge and we want to reach as many people as possible with our message.

Our training, research, experience, and teaching background in the martial arts, as well as in disciplines such as physical training, hypnosis and mental conditioning, survival, and secret operations qualifies us to present what many simply do not know, and what some—for commercial reasons, perhaps—will not tell you.

It is our sincere hope that we contribute to the safety, peace of mind, and well-being of good people everywhere. See a violent physical assailant as an object to be destroyed. Do not subvert your chances of stopping him by considering him human in any sense of the word. Go at him with the fury of an

enraged tiger. Destroy! Go for his eyes, his throat, his testicles; break his knee or shinbone, smash into his sternum or solar plexus. Do not be restrained, hesitant, or in the slightest way “fair” or “merciful”!

Just defend yourself! Rip off his ears, break the bridge of his nose. Use anything at hand to assist yourself. To hell with that bastard who unjustly intends to harm you or a loved one! You must not be a “human being” when you are attacked. You must be more inhuman than your attacker obviously is. This is what he is not expecting, is not prepared for, and cannot cope with!

Ruthlessness is not nice. We have said countless times that there is no “nice” way to defend yourself. And there isn’t. The gutter garbage that believes its urge to maim or kill you will meet no serious resistance when it attempts to carry out its plan, must be met with overwhelming, cruel, and mercilessly destructive violence.

Not the slightest compassion or forbearance. Explode in his goddamn face like a hand grenade going off unexpectedly. And keep on attacking him with zero regard for how badly you injure the lout. Stop only when you have decisively brought an end to the threat that he has brought to you.

Anything goes in self-defense. Would that all decent people understand and embrace that—and then train in real combat techniques that enable them to devastate any extralegal assailant who intrudes upon their lives.

Hopefully you will become such a person. Begin by acquiring the ruthless attitude you need, and combine that with training in skills such as we have been teaching well over 40 years! We have never lost a student to a mugger, troublemaker, abductor, punk, bully, or other variant of human filth you care to name. One reason why is because they learn from us to be ruthless!

TRENDS IN TECHNOCRACY



By *Joe Doran*

IS A 21st CENTURY CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LIKELY?

It passed under the radar of most news outlets, but two more states recently signed onto a call for a convention of states to amend the United States Constitution.

The state legislatures of Nebraska and Wisconsin approved measures for those states to participate.

Grassroots supporters involved in the Convention of States Project (COS) have been organizing to encourage states to opt to convene a convention, to propose and vote on amendments that would update the U.S. Constitution.

Though the original Constitution itself lays out a Convention Of States as a means for updating the highest law of the land, no such convention has yet occurred in the nation's history.

Congress has proposed all 27 current amendments, which required the backing of two-thirds of both the House and Senate.

A total of 17 states have now authorized a Convention of States. But the hurdle to actually convening one is a call by two-thirds of state legislatures. That would be 34 states.

In other words, the current movement is only half-way there.

Time will play a factor in whether enough states sign on, since legislatures like Nebraska that have so far approved a Convention, have set a time limit on their approval.

If two-thirds of states have not signed on by 2027, approval of some states including Nebraska would be revoked.

What Might A Convention Do?

Backers of a Constitutional Convention of States have different objectives. COS says it wants to "impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit its power and jurisdiction, and impose term limits on its officials and members of Congress."

To that end, the group has proposed three amendments for a Convention of States to consider.

The first would require the federal government to have an annual balanced budget. The second has provisions for restricting federal power. And the third calls for implementing Congressional term limits.

Many analysts believe it's highly unlikely any blue states will sign onto calling a convention to consider a balanced budget amendment or an amendment restricting Federal powers.

But some believe an amendment limiting the tenure of politicians could have more traction.

The whole process is further complicated by the fact that some states which have signed onto a convention haven't specifically authorized consideration of one or another of the proposed amendments.

Mississippi's legislature, for example, authorized participation in a Convention of States in 2019. But the authorization limits the state to voting only on a balanced budget amendment and an amendment restricting federal powers.

According to *The Yazoo Herald*, activists are currently trying to get the state legislature to [amend](#) its participation so it could vote on a congressional term limits amendment.

Other factors and forces make the chances of a Convention of States even more uncertain.

COS admits that global elites, including George Soros and his webs of well-funded organizations, are using their considerable resources to oppose the Convention:

“George Soros, 230 statist organizations, and a few radical fringe groups are attempting to defeat the Convention of States movement with fear tactics. They are actively spreading misinformation. Don't be duped by those who benefit from concentrated power in Washington, D.C. In these thoroughly researched articles, we address each of the concerns and myths raised.”

Soros made news in January for making the largest ever political party donation in American history, giving 125-million dollars to the Democratic National Committee.

COS believes the answer to the corrosive undermining of democracy by powerful elites and centralized authorities has its antidote in Article V of the Constitution.

Article V lays out the mechanism for a Convention of States and was put in place as an ultimate check against abuse of power:

“Article V was put in the Constitution to give the people the ability to combat an overreaching and tyrannical federal government, and an army of grassroots patriots is now using that tool to take back our freedom, and restore a system of self-governance. Article V is the last, best hope for America.”

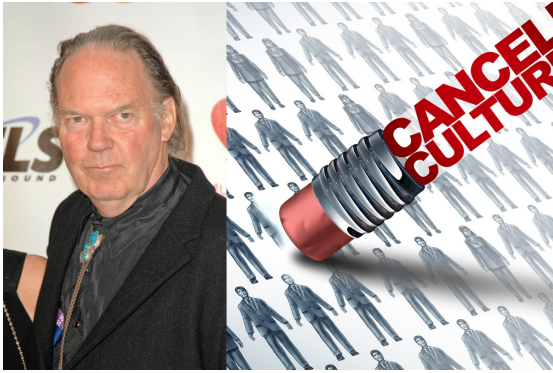
States have the ability to organize a convention to propose constitutional modifications without the permission of Congress under Article V of the Constitution. Two-thirds of state legislatures (34) must officially endorse the convention for it to take place.

This process of amending the Constitution has never been utilized before. Congress has proposed all 27 current amendments, which need the backing of two-thirds of both the House and Senate.

Whether it will happen in the foreseeable future is something that will depend on whether more Americans become aware of the movement, spread the word, and get involved.

For more info on COS, visit conventionofstates.com.

“FART OF OLD” NEIL YOUNG SUCCEEDS IN GETTING ROGAN CENSORED



Last week the **Trends Journal** noted how a few celebrities and pundits were bucking the corporate-government COVID groupthink (see [“KID ROCK, GOLDIE HAWN AND EVANGELINE LILLY ROCKIN’ IN THE FREE WORLD WHILE NEIL YOUNG](#)

[COWERS”](#)).

It didn’t take long for the Empire to strike back.

Spotify, a leading music and podcast streaming service often used on cellphones and other devices, has removed over one hundred episodes of “The Joe Rogan Experience” podcast.

The immediate impetus for the removal was an exodus of Spotify by a handful of music artists, spurred by Neil Young.

Young, known for rock classics like “Heart Of Gold,” is evidently in mortal fear of catching the virus and dying before he gets even older (he’s 76, closing in on the average age of death for U.S. men).

Calling Rogan’s supposed COVID “misinformation” dangerous, Young, along with old bandmates Crosby, Stills & Nash, and others like Joni Mitchell, gave Spotify an ultimatum to cancel Rogan.

Spotify’s action is a decided step in that direction.

Rogan Another Thorn In The Side Of Elites

“The Joe Rogan Experience” is the number one listened-to podcast in the world.

Rogan exercises influence on a par with Tucker Carlson, which is saying something.

As Rogan has interviewed and entertained more points of view and evidence from different guests concerning the agendas and actual misinformation surrounding everything from COVID therapies to the JFK assassination, the political establishment and MSM media have clearly been growing uncomfortable.

President Joe Biden's administration recently suggested that more should be done to censor Rogan.

The shipped up controversy extracted an apology from Rogan, who promised more balance on his podcast.

In other words, Rogan, who helped represent true balance by voicing alternatives to the goose-step propaganda of most media concerning corporate-government narratives, pledged to get in line.

It probably won't help his cause.

Spotify has so far removed 113 episodes of "The Joe Rogan Experience," many of them older and taped before his current COVID-19 issue, according to JREMissing, a website that tracks the podcast.

Among the missing episodes are ones featuring well-known conservatives, and ones authorities like to smear and label as "far-right" and "conspiracy theorists," such as Proud Boys founder Gavin McInnes, Michael Malice, Alex Jones, and Milo Yiannopoulos.

Even episodes with outspoken comedians like Rich Vos and Little Esther have disappeared down the memory hole.

Young: Saint Or Slick?

Rolling Stone put out a story about Young spearheading the cancel Rogan effort, with the title “Neil Young Took a Principled Stand. Some Right-Wingers Had Never Seen One Before.”

But the decidedly un-edgy hagiography failed to delve into corporate connections of Young that smell to high heaven.

It was left to Twitter and some 4chan users to expose the dubious links.

Writer Grames Barnby tweeted this fat tidbit about Young’s ties to Blackstone and Pfizer:

*“Grames Barnaby
@overunderwriter*

.

Feb 3

Replying to

@JoshuaLisec

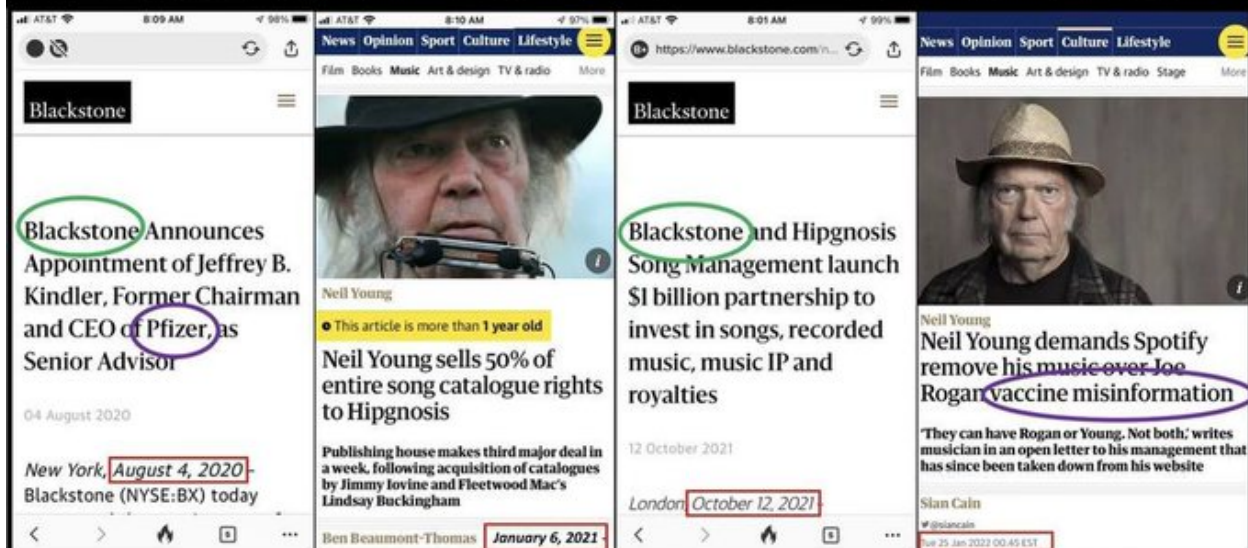
Never forget

@JoshuaLisec

*for every elaborate wall of text work the MSM puts out, one anon from a
chan / BBS can destroy it all in single day.*

Behold! 📌”

CONNECT THE DOTS



FOLLOW THE MONEY

*“Grames Barnaby
@overunderwriter*

.

Feb 3

- 1) Former Pfizer CEO connection identified with investor group.*
- 2) Neil Young id'd as selling catalogue to investor group.*
- 3) Consequences as dates roll forward for both actors.*
- 4) Top and Bottom Bold Capitalized text surround events with a simple axiom to sum it up.”*

(see Tweet thread [here](#).)

But the effort against Rogan likely goes deeper, and may be even more coordinated.

It's becoming obvious as old footage of Rogan (a comedian active in the 1990's) making crude racial jokes and using the N-word, is suddenly surfacing, that a cancel campaign is being waged in waves.

For more on the intrigue and players, check out the interesting info at [The Free Press Report](#) on substack.

Late Breaking: Rumble Makes An Offer

On Monday, the Joe Rogan Spotify saga took another turn when Rumble, the uptrending video streaming service, offered Rogan 100 million dollars over four years to bring all his former podcasts and new shows to Rumble.

Rumble has experienced explosive growth, in significant part, because of censorship taking place on platforms like YouTube, Facebook (now Meta) and Twitter.

A post from Rumble signed by CEO Chris Pavlovski made the proposal to Rogan:



ADDRESS 444 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228
USA

WEBSITE corp.rumble.com

February 7, 2022

Joe Rogan
The Joe Rogan Experience

Dear Joe,

We stand with you, your guests, and your legion of fans in desire for real conversation. So we'd like to offer you 100 million reasons to make the world a better place.

How about you bring all your shows to Rumble, both old and new, with no censorship, for 100 million bucks over four years?

This is our chance to save the world. And yes, this is totally legit.

Sincerely,

Chris Pavlovski
CEO

TRENDPOST: Gerald Celente notes that many years ago, musicians—“artists”—used to protest nearly everything governments did. Now they say and do everything governments say and tell them to do.

Joe Rogan is the latest frog being brought to a boil by elitist powers, and his promises to quiet his voice and even act as a platform for approved narratives may only save him on Spotify if he becomes a complete toady of the corporate state.

*Other platforms making offers to Rogan is encouraging, and shows what **Trends Journal** identified as a growing trend of an alternative politically necessitated economy. See [“ARE AMERICANS HEADING TOWARD A SILENT SECESSION?”](#)*

(4 May 2021) ["GAINING FREEDOM FROM THE TECHNOCRACY"](#) (20 Jul 2021) and ["GAB ADS WILL OFFER ALTERNATIVE TO GOOGLE ADSENSE"](#) (10 Aug 2021).

But if Rogan really wanted to explode the heads of his enemies, he could respond to the attempt to "Alex Jones" by joining Alex Jones's InfoWARS network.

That would be something. It might even result in a COVID vaccine-like case of myocarditis for a certain "Heart Of Gold" singer.

THIS WEEK IN SURVEILLANCE



APPLE TAKES BITE OUT OF BIG TECH DATA MINING. Losing users isn't Meta's (formerly Facebook) only problem.

Changes to privacy protections by Apple implemented in April 2021 are affecting the bottom lines of several big tech firms modeled on profiting off user data.

Apple made a significant update to its privacy policies in April 2021, reducing digital marketers' monitoring powers and allowing iPhone users to opt-out of data sharing. It was evident at the time that this had the potential to dramatically alter digital reality. The value all that personal information holds is now being seen in the damage inflicted to corporate bottom lines.

According to an original report from Markets Insider, many earnings reports from big social media firms, including Facebook, Twitter, and others, indicated a \$278-billion impact from Apple's privacy reforms.

Meta Feels the Most Pain

Meta has been one of the affected companies. Meta made news last week for a steep stock price crash. At one point, company shares were down 26 percent, wiping more than two billion off Mark Zuckerberg's net worth.

That decline came after a poor earnings reports that showed the company lost users for the first time ever, and also failed to meet earnings expectations.

"These changes cause two problems," according to industry analyst Ruhell Amin, head of retail equity research at William O'Neil + Co. "The first is that the accuracy of Facebook (Meta) ads will decrease, which increases the cost of driving outcomes. And the other is that measuring those outcomes has become more difficult."

In comments to CNBC, Amin added "Given the fact that Facebook has the most sophisticated ad tech, and the highest monetization rate, there is a belief that perhaps Facebook has the most to lose here. And management did cite incremental headwinds from iOS 15 this year, in the second half of this year."

In 2022, Apple's privacy upgrade will increase social media fees, tech news outlet Interesting Engineering noted.

Apple already implemented changes informing users when social media apps want to track activity and tailor ads based on that activity.

The iOS update introduced prompts for users to opt-in or opt out of such tracking. Many opted out.

The change was hailed as a major victory for privacy campaigners, who, among other things, objected to social media sites profiting off user engagement sales.

Meta lost around \$10 billion in yearly revenue as a result of the missing user data, according to CFO David Wehner, which made it more difficult for the company to offer targeted adverts to the people most inclined to click.

But other factors have impacted Meta's recent woes.

TikTok was cited as one reason for Meta's decline in users. A Chinese company with government connections, TikTok is especially popular with a youth demographic. The platform is built on posting and sharing short videos.

Meta spokespeople didn't explicitly cite the company's suppression and bans of users and groups expressing dissident political views as another factor in its losses. But recent user base gains by Rumble, GAB, Getter and other platforms more open to free speech are undeniable.

The evolving nature of "Web 3.0," with a greater emphasis on decentralization and privacy, is something that is revealing the age of not only Meta, but other "2.0" web tech giants like Google, Twitter and even Amazon.

The companies themselves are aware of the changes and have been making moves to get in on—or some say co opt—the incipient blockchain, DLT and crypto driven technology revolution.

It's why Facebook decided to rebrand and focus on development of the Metaverse. It obviously views metaverse technologies as the future of social interaction, and selling and monetization.

For related articles, see:

- ["HOW BIG TECH MAINTAINS ITS MONOPOLY"](#) (17 Aug 2021)
- ["HOW BIG TECH MAINTAINS ITS MONOPOLY: A FOLLOW-UP"](#) (24 Aug 2021)
- ["CANCELED IN THE METAVERSE"](#) (16 Nov 2021)
- ["METAVERSE: THE NEW COLLECTIVE"](#) (14 Dec 2021)

TRENDS IN CRYPTOS



WILL THE METAVERSE PSYCH OUT THE NEXT GENERATION?

Will the Metaverse compound problems that have already come with spending so much of social life and even school and work in a virtual landscape?

Some psychologists are warning of just that likelihood.

Studies have already shown detrimental consequences of social media on the psyches of children and teenagers, though some of the named problems are hardly confined to online settings.

Bullying, harassment, body image and self-esteem are often magnified and distorted in novel ways thanks to technology.

Whether it's idealized images that are hard to live up to, or rude exchanges that virtual interaction seems to make easier, there's no doubt that the medium of the internet has affected how people act, and often, how they feel about themselves and deal with life.

And young people, who are most immersed in virtual interaction, while also developing, are pretty clearly most affected.

“All of these new tools, and all of these new possibilities, could be used for good or for evil,” clinical psychologist Mitch Prinstein recently commented about potential dangers of the metaverse in a CNBC interview.

Metaverse: New Worlds, New Problems?

To many who’ve grown up watching movies like Avatar and Ready Player One, the idea of being able to exist in an idealized, self-conceived existence, in which augmented or even wholly virtual realities are making more possible than ever, seems like an exciting and even natural evolution.

But Prinstein, chief officer of the American Psychological Association, said he worries about potential effects of avatars for adolescents.

“You are what other people think about you in adolescence. And the idea of being able to fictionalize your identity and receive very different feedback can really mess with a teenager’s identity.”

Big tech companies like Meta (formerly Facebook), are aggressively marketing immersive metaverse technologies to a youth demographic, just as they gobbled up and pushed hip social media apps like Instagram.

The mental health of that demographic is of little concern to corporations out to build and sell the “next big thing.”

“This is just an exacerbation of the problems that we’ve already started to see with the effects of social media,” Prinstein told CNBC. “This is creating more loneliness. This is creating far more body image concerns [and] exposure to dangerous content that’s related to suicidality.”

Research released this past December by the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH), claimed that minors were regularly exposed to graphic sexual content,

racist and violent language, bullying, and other forms of harassment on VRChat's platform, which is typically accessed through Meta's Oculus headsets.

Given the looseness of the way terms like “racist” are thrown around in political battles, and the plentiful sexual content that exists on the current internet, not to mention good old regular entertainment channels, the concerns of the CCDH and psychologists may strike some as overblown.

After all, the metaverse doesn't even fully exist yet in any mature form as a technology. Blaming the ills of the world, real, exaggerated and imagined, on the metaverse, may be just hopping aboard a trend in another way.

Perhaps the most serious consequence of the incipient technology is how it may be utilized to separate, distance, control, divide and profit off people, rather than truly empowering them.

BLOCKCHAIN BATTLES



WHAT DEFINES WEB3? The current “Web2.0” internet is dominated by a few large corporations that control largely separate or “siloeed” ecosystems.

Online commerce? That would be Amazon.
Web advertising and creative content monetization? Google and its Youtube platform remain unrivaled.

Social communication? Twitter and Facebook (now Meta), and for younger demographics, apps like instagram (owned by meta) Snapchat and TikTok.

Cell phone ecosystems are either Apple or Android (Google again).

Consumer desktops, laptops and tablets are still the province of Microsoft and Apple, along with Google Chromebooks.

Of course, there are thousands of websites, online sellers, media companies, etc. active on the internet. But much of what happens online, ends up being filtered through the handful of dominant corporations already mentioned.

Media outlets, for example, depend on gateway apps on Apple devices and in the Google ecosystem, to get their stories and videos to end users.

Millions of retailers are pretty much locked into using Amazon's seller platform, since virtually half of all online sales happen on Amazon.

How does Web3 envision changing the current state of the internet?

Instead of information and communication ecosystems controlled by a few mega corporations, web3 involves technologies that seek to decentralize the current infrastructure of the web, and give control of information back to end users.

Instead of corporate intermediaries controlling the flow, and even whether information and activities occur, web3 is all about fostering technologies that empower users to directly interact, exchange communications, services and assets.

The [Web3 Foundation](#), which fosters technological innovations and projects toward the development of a "Web3" internet, lists among its goals:

- Users own their own data, not corporations
- Global digital transactions are secure
- Online exchanges of information and value are decentralized

Bitcoin and Ethereum Were The First Web3 Projects

When Bitcoin debuted in 2009, it introduced a decentralized network that allowed people to send and receive fractional amounts of a digital token directly to each other.

Transactions were secured by a high standard of cryptography, and a distributed, decentralized ledger which has proved impervious to manipulation. Yes, Bitcoin scams have occurred. But its distributed database has never been directly compromised and altered.

The Ethereum crypto network introduced the ability for decentralized crypto networks to run software applications, via its “Smart Contract” capabilities.

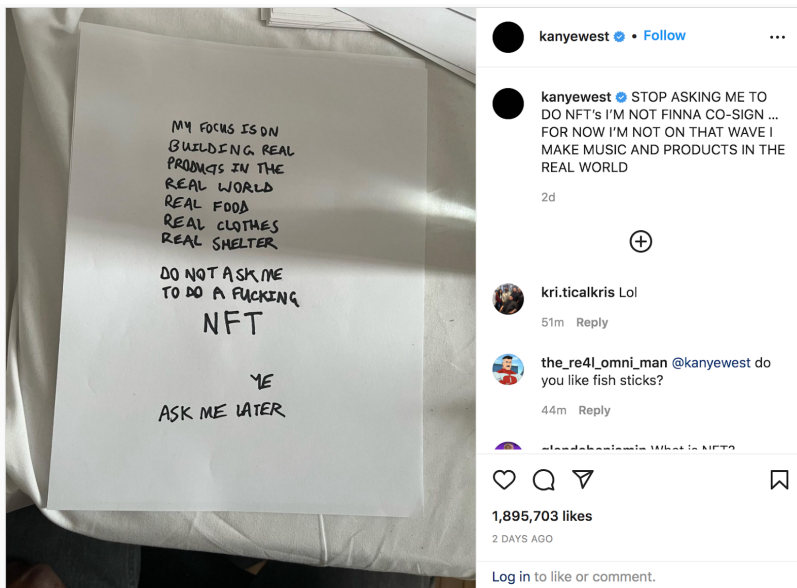
Since Ethereum’s debut, crypto networks and their capabilities to foster everything from decentralized data storage, to digital and real world asset ownership tracking, to user-to-user banking services (via “DeFi”), have exploded.

2021 marked the year that Web3 technologies started to impact and disrupt old line web2 companies.

There’s a reason why Facebook changed its name to Meta and has refocused on developing a metaverse. Other companies like Paypal, which has the lion’s share of Web2 online payments, have been making moves into the web3 world of crypto networks.

Many point out that the promise of web3 technologies has yet to produce truly transformative practical services and real world “products.”

Kanye West made news recently for telling fans in a Twitter post to stop asking him to issue NFT (Non-Fungible Token) collectible digital artwork:



A recent Coindesk article by Jill Gunter [pointed out](#) the current gap between what web3 might accomplish in the future, versus the current state of things, which is lauded with a lot of hype and speculation.

Gunter asks what is the real world value of bitcoin? (Blockchain Battles has addressed that question in articles including [“WHAT IS THE VALUE OF CRYPTOS AND BLOCKCHAINS?”](#) 15 Jun 2021.)

She calls out the limitations of the current Ethereum network, where “gas” fees meant to regulate network usage have become so exorbitant at times as to make the network prohibitively expensive.

She notes the outages of the “Ethereum killer” Solana network, which, though boasting fast transaction times and smart contract capabilities, has shown that particular weakness in terms of reliability.

Perhaps most crucially, Gunter observes that the plethora of crypto networks currently lack the kind of interoperability that is one of the central promises of web3, which is to tear down those siloed corporate ecosystem walls.

But even given those downbeat assessments, Gunter affirms that web3 is still a very early game, and evolving technologies may fulfill the web3 vision:

“For those who are less concerned about immediate mainstream utility, the nascent products of these post-threshold companies like NFTs, decentralized exchanges and decentralized autonomous organizations can offer a glimpse of the future. If the infrastructure supported better user experiences and onboarding, cheaper transactions and created reasonable privacy guarantees, we could squint and see the future of art, music, finance, governance and collective action.”

At root, web3 is just as much about establishing a new paradigm for who controls and profits from online interactions, commerce and services, as it is about coming up with novel applications.

It's already been a wild ride, and despite the bumps, there's enough “there” there to make it likely that the web3 movement isn't about to evaporate into thin air.

VENEZUELA AND INDIA: ALLOW CRYPTO (AND TAX THE HELL OUT OF IT).

According to local sources, the Venezuelan government has adopted a new tax law that aims to collect up to 20% in taxes on bitcoin transactions.

As El Salvador has stayed the course in adopting Bitcoin as legal tender, and even bought the recent dip, Venezuela is discouraging crypto adoption via heavy taxation.

The National Assembly of Venezuela reportedly passed a draft law this week that would tax "large financial transactions" in cryptocurrencies up to 20 percent.

The legislation proposes to collect 2%–20% of all transactions in currencies other than those issued by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, such as the Venezuelan bolivar and El Petro, the country's oil-backed cryptocurrency.

The news was reported by CoinTelegraph.com.

Venezuela already charges similar fees for transactions involving foreign currencies such as the US dollar.

“It is necessary to guarantee treatment at least equal to, or more favorable, to payments and transactions made in the national currency or in cryptocurrencies or crypto assets issued by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela versus payments made in foreign currency,” the bill reads in part.

The project is seen as an attempt to prop up usage of the bolivar, which has lost almost all of its value in the previous decade and has lost over 70% of its value in the last year alone.

The ruining of lives and destruction of wealth in Venezuela, though not every day news in the U.S., has obviously continued under its communist regime.

Many in the country have turned to bitcoin and other cryptos to stem the wreckage of their savings and wealth. In October 2021, a major international airport in Venezuela planned to begin taking Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies as payment for tickets and other services, according to CoinTelegraph.

And tens of thousands of local companies are switching to bitcoin to avoid hyperinflation.

The tax crackdown is viewed by some analysts as another ill-conceived scheme that will have perverse outcomes and hurt Venezuelans in comparison to regions and nations which adopt a friendlier crypto stance.

India, another country which has stridently opposed crypto adoption by its citizens, even making them illegal, made news last week for changing course and allowing crypto use. (See [“LATE BREAKING: INDIA ANNOUNCES CRYPTO REGS AND RUPEE CBDC.”](#) 1 Feb 2022.)

But India also effectively penalizes such use with an even more onerous 30 percent tax confiscation rate.

RIO MAYOR WANTS TO HEDGE WITH BITCOIN. According to Cointelegraph Brazil, Eduardo Paes, the mayor of Rio de Janeiro, intends to invest 1% of the city's purse in Bitcoin (BTC).

According to a report by local news agency O Globo, Paes outlined plans for "Crypto Rio," or turning the city into a cryptocurrency center, at Rio Innovation Week on Thursday.

In a panel with Miami mayor and Bitcoin bull Francis Suarez, who began taking Bitcoin as payment in November 2021, the mayor discussed Rio's cryptocurrency ambitions.

"We are going to launch Crypto Rio and invest 1% of the treasury in cryptocurrency. The government has a role to play," Paes announced, adding that the state is considering tax breaks for the business.

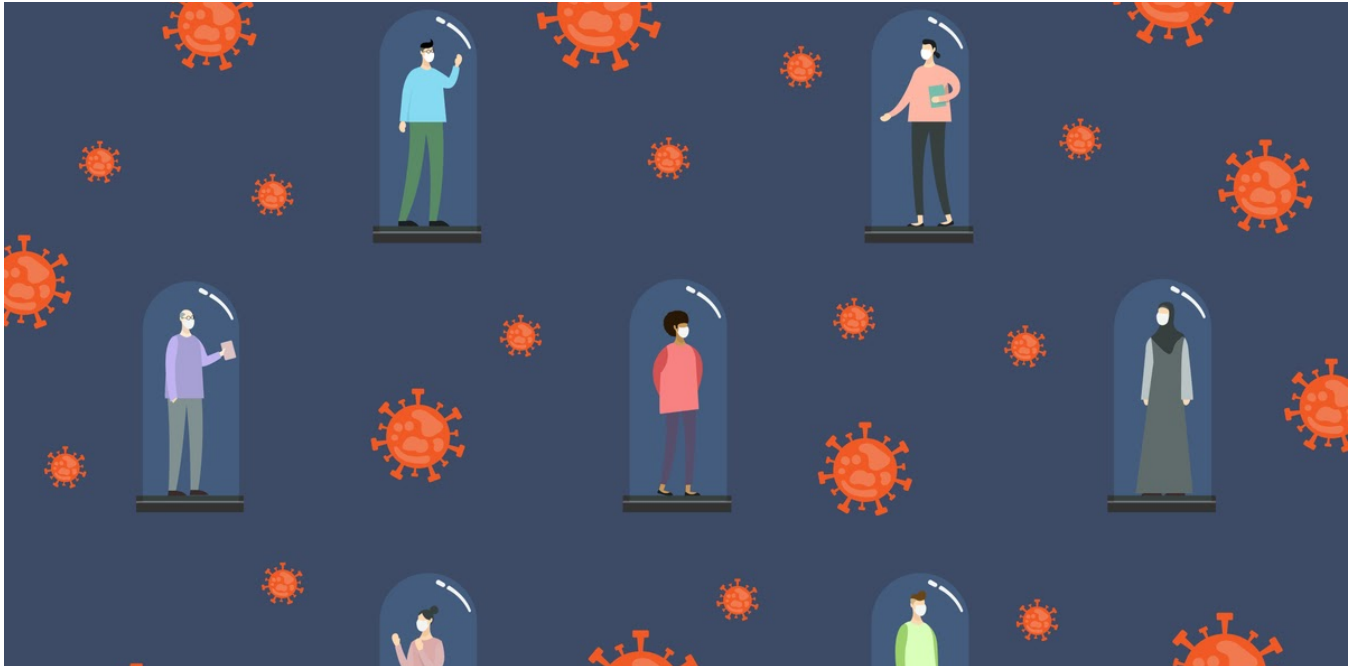
Municipal finance secretary Pedro Paulo, also on the panel, said that the government is exploring a 10% reduction on property tax in Brazil for Bitcoin payments. "Let's look at the legal structure," he remarked.

TRENDPOST: Countries which look to accrue bitcoin by incentivizing payments in the asset, instead of disincentivizing it by confiscatory taxation, will fare better in terms of their crypto coffers.

The question then becomes, will bitcoin, built as the world's first direct digitally transactable, inflatable asset token, reward holders by outperforming fiat currencies and other asset classes?

The story continues to unfold.

TRENDS IN THE COVID WAR



LOCKDOWN LIES IGNORED BY PRESSTITUTES. DISMISSED BY D.C.

As **Trends Journal** subscribers well know, we have been saying for nearly two years that the lockdowns and draconian mandates imposed by politicians across the globe lacked a scintilla of evidence.

Remember the bullshit of wiping down boxes and grocery bags before you brought them into your home because the “COVID WILL GET YOU”?

Totally useless: The odds of getting it from a surface are less than one in 10 thousand.

Remember the bullshit of having to stand behind Plexiglass dividers to stop the COVID going from you to the cashier?

Totally useless: The variant goes under and over the open sides and back of the Plexiglas, but yet they are still standing tall in a store near you.

Remember the 1 meter, 2 meter, 3 meter social distancing lines the freaks in control made up, whether it was indoors or out, that people must obey so they would not spread the coronavirus?

Totally made-up. As data shows, a sneeze or cough could travel as much as 27 feet.

Look at how people were made to wear masks outdoors and/or wearing them because they feel safe when the odds of catching the virus outdoors, according to “science,” is less than one percent.

Remember the maniacal politicians imposed “shelter-in-place” mandates, forcing people to stay in their homes, closed down playgrounds and banned going to the beach?

The curve was never flattened, only the lives, hearts, souls and livelihoods of millions were “flattened.”

All made-up COVID bullshit mandates we have detailed over the years. Here is just one of the many articles. (See [“MAKE IT UP, THEY WILL BELIEVE IT,”](#) 23 Jun 2020)

Lockdown Lunacy

The lockdowns were lunacy. Now it is “official,” but the mainstream media has ignored it.

Yes, the lockdowns imposed upon people across the globe to stop the spread of the coronavirus were useless. In fact, go back to the arrogant “Daddy’s Boy”, little Andy Cuomo—who like Justin Trudeau, George W. Bush and many of the rest of the ruling gang, would be nobodies if Daddy didn’t get them there—admitted at the height of his lockdowns of New York State, that 66 percent of the people hospitalized with COVID were people who were locked in their homes.

Blacklisted

Almost totally ignored by the mainstream media, economists at Johns Hopkins University researched meta-analysis of multiple studies and said they found that the lockdowns during the first COVID-19 wave in the U.S. and Europe only reduced mortality by 0.2 percent.

Repeating what we had detailed for nearly two years, the study's abstract concluded:

“While this meta-analysis concludes that lockdowns have had little to no public health effects, they have imposed enormous economic and social costs where they have been adopted. In consequence, lockdown policies are ill-founded and should be rejected as a pandemic policy instrument.”

The authors of the working paper looked at 24 separate studies and then grouped them as lockdown, shelter-in-place, and specific non-pharmaceutical intervention studies, and determined that lockdowns had “little to no effect on COVID-19 mortality.”

Shelter-In-Place orders only reduced deaths by an average of 2.9 percent, the report said. The university made it clear that the views in the report were held by the authors—who were economists—not the school's.

The **Trends Journal** has reported since the start of the outbreak that lockdowns were not based on science and did more harm than good.

See:

- [“EUROPE: MORE LOCKDOWNS, PROTEST, ECONOMIC HARDSHIP”](#)
- [“LOCKDOWN PROTEST RAGING. NEW LOCKDOWN ORDERS”](#)
- [“COVID-19: THE VIRUS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPRESSION”](#)
- [“QUEENSLAND: 13 NEW COVID CASES, LOCKDOWN 5.1 MILLION”](#)
- [“NEW STUDY: LOCKDOWN LUNACY”](#)

The authors from Johns Hopkins theorized that the lockdown measures may have worsened the outbreak because people were stuck at home—where the rate of transmission is at its highest.

Joel Zinberg wrote in *The City Journal*:

“Job losses in March and April 2020 exceeded 22 million and have not yet been fully recovered. Children lost years of educational and social development that will affect them for the rest of their lives. Psychological problems have soared throughout society. It’s hard to disagree with the Hopkins researchers’ conclusion that lockdowns ‘should be rejected as a pandemic policy instrument.’”

Fox News pointed out that the Johns Hopkins study was not mentioned on CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, and NBC. It wasn't just the networks avoiding the study, Fox reported. *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, The Associated Press, Reuters, *USA Today*, Axios, Politico among other outlets that avoided the topic, Fox reported, citing search results.

But some skeptics spoke out against the study that they say was misrepresented in some news outlets as though it spoke for the university, which it did not. These critics also pointed out that the authors were economists and not epidemiologists or in the medical field.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have forecast since the outbreak of the COVID War, anti-vax, anti-lockdown, anti-tax, anti-immigration, anti-establishment political parties will be strong forces now and in the future.*

The Canadian trucker’s Freedom Convoy which is being vilified by the mainstream media who have been the main spreaders of COVID Fear and Hysteria and attacked by the politicians who launched the COVID War, is a prime example of people power now emerging.

TRENDPOST: *Each country’s politicians impose Executive Orders on how far social distancing should distance, how many people can gather, under what*

exceptions they can leave their homes, how long they can stay out, how far from their homes they are allowed to roam, and what businesses are essential... without providing scientific justification and/or quantitative analysis to support their orders.

There is never a mention in the media or questions as to the validity of these government mandates and/or the consequences of these actions.

U.S. “ARTIST” SELLOUT: BIG BROTHER KNOWS BEST



Once upon-a-time, not too long ago, “artists,” creative free thinkers, challenged and protested nearly everything the government imposed upon them.

Now, beholden to their corporate masters, inflated with arrogance and ignorant of hard data and scientific facts, today’s “artists” do everything Big Brother says... and attack those who disagree. Fully vaccine impregnated, they are now true champions of Donald Trump’s Operation War Speed full inoculation drive.

Making the headline news in Dumfukistan, aka, The United States of American, anti-Vietnam War era rockers sparked protests and boycotted the streaming platform of Spotify that hosts the popular podcast host, Joe Rogan.

They accused Rogan of peddling COVID-19 misinformation after interviewing two medical experts who do not buy the “official” government line or the mainstream media narrative on the virus.

Neil Young—the out-of-shape “Rockin’ in the Free World” hypocrite—who started the anti-Rogan protest, was quickly supported by Joni Mitchell and then his former compatriots Crosby, Stills, and Nash.

"They can have [Joe] Rogan or Young," he wrote. "Not both."

Young's letter attracted a lot of media attention and prompted the podcaster to post a 10-minute video explaining the show's format and his hope that a free-wheeling conversation can take place with alternative views.

"While we always value alternate points of view, knowingly spreading disinformation during this pandemic has deadly consequences," Crosby, Stills, and Nash said in a statement. "Until real action is taken to show that a concern for humanity must be balanced with commerce, we don't want our music—or the music we made together—to be on the same platform."

Rolling Stone first reported on a letter that Young sent to his management team that said he wanted his music pulled from the streaming service. The letter came after Rogan defended interviews with Dr. Peter McCullough, a notable cardiologist, and Dr. Robert Malone, an infectious disease specialist.

Rogan defended the interviews and pointed to his guests' resumes. McCullough has been widely published and Malone is considered one of the leading founders on mRNA technology, which is used in the Pfizer and Moderna jabs.

"I'm going to do my best, in the future, to balance things out...I'm going to do my best," he said. "But my point of doing this, always, is just to create interesting conversations and ones that I hope people enjoy."

Spotify has stood by the podcaster who attracts about 11 million listeners each episode and is the company's main draw. While Rogan critics were unable to get him off the air because Spotify couldn't care less what these has-been rockers think about Rogan, the latest N-word controversy could spell trouble for Rogan... he has a target on his back.

Critics located repeated past use of the N-word on his podcast. Rogan called the video the "most regretful and shameful thing I've ever had to talk about publicly."

“I know that to most people, there is no context where a white person is ever allowed to say that word, never mind publicly on a podcast. And I agree with that now. I haven't said it in years. But for a long time... instead of saying the N-word, I'd just say the word. I thought as long as it was in context, people would understand what I was doing.”

Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson came out in support of Rogan during the early stages of the controversy, but has since backed away from the host. Johnson said he was not aware of his N-word use prior to his comments in support “but now I’ve become educated to his complete narrative. Learning moment for me.”

When a celebrity refers to something as a "learning moment" that means complete meltdown. The scavengers are out and believe they have Rogan on the ropes.

TREND FORECAST: Long before COVID War censorship, as we have been forecasting and reporting for decades, “free speech is dead.” We are only “free” to repeat the junk-food news shoved down our throats by Presstitutes who sell the lies of government murderers and thieves.

See:

- [“MEDIA CENSORSHIP TRENDS ESCALATE”](#) (19 Sep 2018)
- [“FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS UNDER ATTACK AS ONLINE CENSORSHIP INCREASES”](#) (27 Oct 2020)
- [“YOUTUBE: NO FREEDOM OF SPEECH. BELIEVE WHAT WE TELL YOU!”](#) (5 Oct 2021)
- [“YOUTUBE BANS THE SCIENCE AGAIN”](#) (21 Sep 2021)

Censorship trends will continue to escalate as governments grab more power from the people and large corporations further consolidate the mainstream media and the Internet.

TRENDPOST: And on the coronavirus front we live in a society where health officials have spread lies and misinformation. (See [“CDC’S VAX STATS ARE](#)

FUBAR.” “A TALE OF TWO STUDIES: CDC LYING?” “GOVERNMENT: FREE SPEECH IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH” and “NEW CDC CLAIM: ‘TWO MASKS BETTER THAN ONE.’”)

TRENDPOST: As we have long noted, “Dumb Enough to Believe Bush’s Wars, Dumb Enough to Believe the COVID War.” On 21 May, an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine by doctors and medical experts from Harvard Medical School; the Division of Infectious Diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital; Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute; and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, MA, stated:

“Public health authorities define a significant exposure to Covid-19 as face-to-face contact within 6 feet with a patient with symptomatic Covid-19 that is sustained for at least a few minutes (and some say more than 10 minutes or even 30 minutes). The chance of catching Covid-19 from a passing interaction in a public space is therefore minimal. In many cases, the desire for widespread masking is a reflexive reaction to anxiety over the pandemic.”

POLITICAL FREAKS CAUGHT LYING, KEEP LYING... WHILE ORDERING PEASANTS TO “OBEY”



While the peasants sat below them with their masks worn tightly on their faces, California’s highest-ranking politicians partied together in Los Angeles’ SoFi Stadium—inside a luxury box, of course—without face coverings.

The photos that emerged on Magic Johnson’s Twitter account showed the NBA legend—who is HIV-undetectable—standing beside Gov. Gavin Newsom, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, and San Francisco Mayor London Breed. They’re all smiles and there’s not a mask in sight.

The Golden State currently has a universal indoor mask mandate that has been extended through mid-February. The stadium demands that all fans wear masks unless they are eating or drinking... or, as seen, part of the ruling class.

The **Trends Journal** has reported on numerous occasions where politicians don't follow their own farcical COVID-19 rules. These politicians end up emerging unscathed because they know the public doesn't care. (See ["NEWSOM'S 'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED' MOMENT SEEN AS HIS LATEST COVID SNAFU."](#) ["CALIFORNIA'S NEWSOM: NO VAX, NO SCHOOL"](#) and ["ONTARIO FINANCE MINISTER: ANOTHER POLITICAL JOKER."](#))

We've pointed out in previous issues that Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, who ordered lockdowns for the city, was spotted in the middle of a crowd in November 2020 celebrating Joe Biden's presidential victory.

She responded to criticism by saying, "There are times when we actually do need to have relief and come together, and I felt like that was one of those times. That crowd was gathered whether I was there or not."

Newsom was also spotted around that time at a posh restaurant in Napa Valley celebrating a birthday party and skirting his own guidelines. Newsom has been one of the most outspoken critics of those breaking social-distancing orders. He was seen at a large table with other guests without wearing a mask.

Garcetti was roasted online after telling reporters last week that he was holding his breath while posing for these pictures.

"I think we should focus on what's real," Garcetti said at a SoFi Stadium press conference Wednesday. "I wore my mask the entire game. And when people ask for a photograph, I hold my breath. There's a 0 percent chance of infection from that."

A Twitter user posted, "Eric Garcetti hopes you're dumb enough to believe that he held his breath every single time he took his mask off at the Rams game."

Richard Carpiano, professor of public policy and a public health scientist at UC Riverside, told *The Los Angeles Times*, “It’s not sustainable and advisable to hold your breath.”

Carpiano declined to debate the risk of infection while holding one’s breath for the paper, but said Garcetti should have worn a mask in the photos.

“So much about politics is about public relations and leading by example,” Carpiano said.

TRENDSPOST: *These politicians continue to flout their own COVID-19 rules because they know that they will not be held accountable. The vast majority of the public is either too consumed with providing for their families that they just brush these instances off as politicians being politicians.*

They only get away with it because the public lets them. Garcetti, who will be the U.S.'s next ambassador to India, doesn't care if there's a few embarrassing headlines—he got to spend the day mingling with Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones and other business leaders that will go much further in benefiting his future.

This is, after all, a mayor who was accused of doing nothing while his former chief of staff, Rick Jacobs, was allegedly a serial harasser.

Garcetti testified under oath that he knew nothing about multiple allegations leveled against Jacobs, who he reportedly called a “dear friend, as well as one of my most trusted advisers.”

Multiple people stepped forward and said Garcetti's claim of not knowing is bullshit. Will he be held accountable? Don't hold your breath.

TRENDPOST: *We continue to note how, after politicians are caught lying, cheating, stealing, etc., they blow out their “apology.” They apologize for nothing. Their only true sorrow is getting caught, yet they continue to play the apology game, which the media sells and most of the public buy.*

We note these hypocrisies to illustrate the true nature of the political ruling class of Liars, Cowards, Freaks, and Fools who do as they wish while ordering the plantation workers of Slavelandia to do what they are told.

TRENDPOST: *Where is the civilian outrage of being told that is OK to eat and drink without a mask on, and then it must be put on after eating and drinking? This is as moronic as the same cast of political psychopaths that had children hiding under their school desks in air-raid drills in case an atom bomb was dropped on them by the Russians.*

Q. *What shithead would believe that hiding under a desk would ameliorate the power of an atomic wave?*

A. *The same shitheads that have ordered people to put on masks when walking into a restaurant, but allow them to take it off when sitting down, because in their warped minds, the virus only gets you when walking and does not float down to table height.*

NEW JERSEY, NEW ZEALAND ENDING COVID WAR



Go back over one month ago. Week after week, day after day—on international interviews and to **Trends Journal** subscribers—Gerald Celente had forecast that the COVID War would be winding down by late March, mid-April.

In America, the Governor of New Jersey who had imposed some of the nation's most draconian lockdown mandates, declared on Sunday that the coronavirus would be treated as a part of everyday life, and all the children that have been masked up for years, can go to school without them.

When would the order be lifted? Right around the time Celente had forecast they would... the second week of March.

Other states including Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, Iowa etc., are relaxing mask rules and mandates.

Overseas, New Zealand announced last week that it will begin to reopen its borders after adopting one of the toughest COVID-19 policies in the world to stop the spread of the virus—just as the country’s prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, saw her poll numbers hit their lowest levels since she's been in office.

“It’s time to move on,” Ardern said, according to the *Financial Times*. She insisted that the drastic measures saved lives despite the burden it put on the country. Ardern announced in October that the country was going to shift from a zero-COVID approach.

The country of 5 million has seen 53 deaths from the virus and a total of 17,773 cases. As of Saturday night, there were 12 people receiving hospital care and one person in an ICU.

Ardern announced a five-step plan to allow those who are fully vaccinated to start traveling to the country in March. CNN reported that by July, those who are fully vaccinated from Australia, the U.K., the U.S., and most European countries will be able to enter the country but be forced to self-isolate upon arrival.

The country banned nearly all travelers in March 2020 and requires visitors to stay at state-run facilities at their own costs, the CNN report said. The new guidelines state that visitors can self-isolate outside these state-operated facilities.

“We are in a new phase in our COVID response,” she said. “COVID as an illness hasn't touched many of us to date. But with the transmissibility of Omicron we know we will experience the virus more directly. But the difference here is that we have all the tools possible now to prepare.”

(See [“NEW ZEALAND: PRIME MINISTER’S PRIMETIME COVID FREAK SHOW.”](#) [“VARIANTS FORCE NEW RESTRICTIONS IN ISRAEL, AUSTRALIA”](#) and [“NEW ZEALAND CALLS FOR LOCKDOWN AFTER ONE CASE.”](#))

The *FT* reported that those living in the country have grown restless and took issue with reports that a pregnant journalist who was covering Afghanistan was not allowed to return to New Zealand to have the baby.

The journalist was eventually allowed to return, but her case struck the wrong chord with many. Thousands of kiwis remain stranded abroad.

The paper pointed to an A 1 News Kantar poll that showed support for Ardern had sunk to 35 percent. The number still represents a notable lead over Christopher Luxon, the opposition leader in the National Party, who comes in at 17 percent.

Luxon said that Ardern has teased a few reopening strategies before and said she should resign if she does not come through on her most recent promise.

The Associated Press reported that 77 percent of New Zealanders are fully vaccinated—and 93 percent of those 12 and older.

“There was life before, and now life with COVID, but that also means there will be life after COVID too, a life where we have adapted, where we have some normality back, and where the weather can once again take its rightful place as our primary topic of conversation,” Ardern said. “We are well on our way to reaching that destination. We’re just not quite there yet.”

TREND FORECAST: *Keeping the borders closed to tourism until possibly late February, citizens from Australia and the Cook Islands are among those only permitted to enter the country, by air or sea.*

We forecast that when the COVID War begins to wind-down late March, mid-April, there will be a sharp boost in global tourism and a spike in the hospitality, entertainment and restaurant sectors.

AUSTRIA: NO JAB, NO FREEDOM, BIG FINE



Happy Days are here again in Adolph Hitler's homeland. The leaders of Austria have declared that as of Saturday, all citizens over 18 must either be injected with the Operation War Speed COVID Jab or face a fine after Commander-in-Chief, President Alexander Van der Bellen, signed the Compulsory

Vaccination Act into law.

The country has made any semblance of a normal social life for unvaccinated individuals nearly impossible and has excluded the sizable minority from restaurants and other indoor venues.

The *Financial Times* reported that the country's leadership finds itself in an awkward position. While neighboring countries are relaxing their mandates, Vienna is imposing its toughest mandate yet.

"The government is really stumbling around and I think a lot of people perceive that," Thomas Hofer, a Vienna-based political consultant, told the *FT*. "Polls show a majority are still in favor of the new law, but it's hard to see how that doesn't fall."

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is also reportedly pushing for a vaccine mandate that is expected by the end of the month. Denmark, where 81.5 percent of the population received two shots, announced that it will lift restrictions despite a surge in cases, according to CNN.

"At the same time as infections are skyrocketing, [the number of] patients admitted to intensive care [is] actually down," Søren Brostrøm, the director-general of Denmark's Health Authority, told CNN. "It's around 30 people

in ICU beds right now with a COVID-19 diagnosis, out of a population of 6 million.”

About 100,000 people in Switzerland signed a referendum to prevent the Swiss government from approving compulsory vaccinations.

The law in Vienna applies to all adults, except for pregnant women and those who have medical exemptions. The country has seen massive protests in opposition to the mandate, which was first announced in November.

The country of 9 million has had more than 14,000 COVID-related deaths and 2 million cases. The *Agence France-Presse (AFP)* pointed out that mandatory vaccinations are rare but Ecuador, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Indonesia, and Micronesia have all introduced such measures. Italy has mandated the vaccine for those over 50 and workers in the medical industry.

Austrian police will start to check for the vaccination status of individuals on the street and during traffic stops, Bloomberg reported. The report pointed out how many European countries are looking for life past coronavirus. Denmark, for example, reclassified COVID-19 as no longer a threat to society.

TRENDPOST: *There are a number of reasons why so many are hesitant to get the COVID Jab. One is that they were rushed along under a project called “Operation Warp Speed.”*

Another is the fact that the disease is entirely survivable by most of the people it infects, and those who die from it are suffering from pre-existing comorbidities and/or the elderly, who are suffering from illnesses.

TRENDPOST: *The vaccine checks will start in March and the unvaccinated will face fines up to \$4,100 each year. France 24 reported that more than 60 percent of the country is in favor of the mandate.*

What is being imposed upon civilian populations is unprecedented in modern history: (See [“AUSTRIA ENDING LOCKDOWN MANDATES, RESTRICTIONS](#)

[AND FINES FOR UNVAXXED.” “AUSTRIA: IT’S THE LAW. NO JAB. NO FREEDOM”](#) and [“ANTI-LOCKDOWN FIGHTERS GRAB SEATS IN AUSTRIA’S REGIONAL PARLIAMENT, AS PREDICTED BY TRENDS JOURNAL.”](#))

TREND FORECAST: *We maintain our forecast that the stricter the COVID War mandates that are imposed, the stronger and faster the formation of anti-vax, anti-establishment, anti-tax political movements.*

And when equity markets crash and the world sinks into deep economic decline, these movements will gain formidable strength.

*But again, as socioeconomic conditions deteriorate and civil unrest and government protests escalate, as Gerald Celente notes, and as the cover of last week’s **Trends Journal** illustrates: “When all else fails, they take you to war.”*

And war is on the near horizon. While the global media and political focus is now on Russia and Ukraine, our sites are more closely aimed at the Middle East with Turkey, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Yemen, United Arab Emirates targeted as flashpoint nations.

TRUCKER’S FREEDOM CONVOY, MEGATREND TROUNCED BY PRESSTITUTES AND POLITICIANS



Inspired by the massive Canadian trucker’s Freedom Convoy, launched in protest of draconian COVID War dictates imposed upon them by politicians, thousands of truck drivers in the U.S. are planning an

Ottawa-style protest for Washington, D.C., to voice their opposition to COVID-19 mandates.

Portrayed by Prostitutes, media whores who get paid to put out for the corporate pimps and government whoremasters, they have been portrayed by the mainstream media as “the far right.”

The attempt to tie this protest and others to these groups is deliberate and meant to degrade these legitimate movements as though they are essentially glorified KKK rallies. Gerald Celente, has spoken about this tactic and watched it play out in Canada.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the little Daddy’s boy who has gone in hiding since the trucker’s peaceful Freedom Convoy came to the nation’s capital, Ottawa, demeaned the protesters as a “minority” of “racists” intent on desecrating war memorials in the city.

Of course, any racism is reprehensible, but—so far—Ottawa police have 13 “open investigations” and released one image of a woman allegedly dancing on the city’s National War Memorial.

TRENDPOST: *The New York Times, the self-proclaimed “Paper of Record,” which Gerald Celente says is more accurately the “Toilet Paper of Record,” spewed out the same Trudeau crap last night.*

Following the mayor of Ottawa declaring a State of Emergency, the Times, totally discounting the tens of thousands of people peacefully taking to the streets, in Ottawa, Quebec, Alberta, Manitoba, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Toronto said, “The demonstrations, during which some protesters have desecrated national memorials and threatened local residents, have shaken a country known globally as a model for humanism and serenity.”

“Some protesters?”

How many?

One, two, three people out of tens of thousands?

And who were they, agents provocateurs?

This is not journalism; it is demeaning, destructive, Presstitute propaganda.

And labeling Canada a country that is a “model for humanism and serenity?”

What “humanism” model of “serenity” murderous wars did the Toilet Paper forget that the Canadians marched and murdered in... Besides slaughtering their indigenous population?

Forgetting the past few hundred years and starting in the 20th century, was it the World War I slaughter; no possibly their “humanism” involvement in the Russian Civil War; or could be the Korean War massacre, the Congo murders, the Persian Gulf War, the Afghan War, the Iraq War, the Somali Civil War, Bosnian War, Kosovo War, Libyan War?

Canada is just another nation ruled by sociopaths, psychopaths and pathological liars.

On the COVID War front, numerous times the nation was locked down by politicians who destroyed the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions of civilians despite the fact that COVID victims that died from the virus were predominantly elderly with pre-existing comorbidities.

But obviously, the Toilet Paper of Record did not report that of the 38,815 alleged COVID victims, over 20,000 were over 80 years of age. Another 7,000 virus victims were over 70 years of age, and 3,500 that died of the virus were between 60 and 69 years old.

That’s right, out of a population of 38,271,761... some 38,000 allegedly died of the virus over the course of two years, or 0.0507 percent per year, and over the course of 24 months, a grand total of 0.00422 percent per month. And as we have noted, the vast majority were 80 years of age or older. Indeed, see our 16 March 2021 article, [“CANADA LOCKDOWN: NURSING HOMES’ VICTIMS OF COVID.”](#)

Again, these facts are never reported by the mainstream media who instead support the politicians in charge and demean citizens that put their lives on the line for Freedom, Peace and Justice. (See [“CANADA: ‘HEIL VAX’ NO FREEDOM FOR UNVAXXED.”](#) [“60 PERCENT OF CANADA’S RESTAURANTS MAY FAIL”](#) and [“CANADA: LOCKDOWN LUNACY, GESTAPO 2.0.”](#))

And keeping with the Gestapo way of life in the 21st century, big-tech, GoFundMe—selling the Trudeau and Presstitutes propaganda that the Canadian protests were violent and racist—said they would not give the \$10 million they received from people supporting the Freedom Convoy, and would give to other organizations.

D.C. Convoy

While barely reported in the American media, in the U.K. *The Guardian* reported that “Convoy to DC 2022” has already gained 100,000 members and will take place next month.

The report also pointed out that Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, removed the group’s page for “repeatedly violating our policies around QAnon.” (See [“FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS UNDER ATTACK AS ONLINE CENSORSHIP INCREASES.”](#))

Last week, the **Trends Journal** reported on the Canadian trucker freedom convoy and identified it as a [“Megatrend.”](#) We pointed out that the media sells fear and hatred around people who want to provide for their families and not be forced to inject something that they do not want into their bodies.

Celente called the truck convoy the opening salvo in the West’s freedom-from-vaccine movement. He said the truckers cannot back down if they want to achieve their goals. He said they must tell the media that this is a PEACEFUL protest, and that any violence "will be that of the Trudeau Mob...agents provocateurs."

The American truckers laughed off the insinuation that they are a bunch of QAnon following racists. The group moved to Telegram and acquired 28,000 followers.

“None of us are QAnon supporters or followers or anything like that. We didn't even have anything like that posted on our personal pages,” Jeremy Johnson, an organizer, said. He told Fox News that “they like to silence people who tell the truth.”

Devin Burghart, the executive director of the Institute for Research & Education on Human Rights, accused the “far-right” of using these public events as an opportunity to normalize their presence as well as an opportunity to recruit new members.”

Liz Peek, the conservative columnist, wrote in *The Hill* that the American truckers have already been portrayed “by the liberal media as right-wing zealots and science deniers, which is only one notch above climate deniers.”

She said President Biden was elected by appealing to the so-called “little guy.” She said the White House has to strike a delicate balance and cannot go the route of Trudeau who called his protest a “fringe minority.”

“They could, if pushed, call for a sick-out of America's vital truckers,” she wrote. “Whatever supply chain problems we have had would pale before the catastrophe that could unfold if tens of thousands of drivers simply walked off the job for a day or two. Imagine what would happen to transportation costs, and inflation.”

TREND-TRACKING LESSON: Gerald Celente has long noted that one of the most important elements for protests to be successful is that they must continue unabated. For example, the Berlin Wall came tumbling down when people came to the wall and did not leave. And each day, more people came and did not leave until they greatly outnumbered the military.

We most recently saw this truth demonstrated in November when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said lawmakers would repeal the agricultural laws that farmers in the country feared would leave them in financial ruin. (See [“MODI LOSES, FARMERS WIN. A MEGA-TREND BEYOND INDIA.”](#))

And as with India’s farmers, day after day, night after night, week after week, month after month, they took to the streets and did not leave until they got what they wanted.

Unlike India’s farmers, who work with their hands and are strong and hearty, today’s demonstrators in the Western world generally take to the streets one day, make a big deal about it, and they go home.

For success to be achieved, the resolve to protest must continue until demands are satisfactorily met.

*And as we noted in the **Trends Journal** last week, Serbia's government reversed the controversial Rio Tinto lithium mine that was planned for the western part of the country after weeks of massive protests claiming that the mine would lead to environmental ruin for neighboring towns.*

As we have been reporting, week after week, month after month thousands of demonstrators took to the streets blocking main roads and bridges used to access the mine site near Loznica.

These protesters, as with the current Freedom Convoy in Canada, also faced an intimidation campaign by authorities and police brutality.

“We are not afraid of Rio Tinto,” Ana Brnabić, the Serbian prime minister, said, according to the report. “We are here for our people and our country. They can do whatever they think they should do. This is the final decision of the government of the Republic of Serbia.”

LO AND BEHOLD: MIT TECH REVIEW HOPS ABOARD LAB LEAK TRAIN



The likelihood that American scientists and Chinese government workers at a Wuhan biolab spawned COVID is now so accepted, that even MIT is writing extensive pieces on it.

Sure, a recent long article in MIT Technology Review tries to put an ethical spin on Ralph Baric, the virus “Dr. Frankenstein” expert who took it upon himself to wildly experiment creating hybrid SARS viruses.

He was doing it with good intentions, of course. And his own standards of safety were impeccable—at least according to the fawning, shielding coverage provided by MIT:

“Baric was a legend in the field, but no matter how many safety precautions are taken, there is always a chance that a never-before-seen virus can escape and trigger an outbreak. Baric felt that the extreme measures he took in the lab minimized the risk, and in fact made his work categorically different from the high-risk influenza work the NIH had been targeting. He also felt that his research was urgent: new cases of MERS, spread by camels, were even then popping up in the Middle East. Eventually the NIH agreed, waving him forward.”

The piece presents Baric pointing fingers at substandard containment practices at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which happened to be within spitting distance of where COVID first made the world scene in 2019.

As the “bat virus” theory came under scrutiny, Baric threw his colleague Peter Daszak of EcoHealth Alliance under the bus.

The MIT piece makes sure to note that Baric joined this past May in a call by scientists to investigate virus handling and containment protocols at the Wuhan lab.

Despite all its CYA spin, the MIT article actually presents a pretty useful chronicle of the timeline and connections between American scientists and counterparts in China.

It also notes how pivotal Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) was in doggedly pursuing the origin of the virus, and the American funding and illegal continuance of banned “gain-of-function” research—all overseen by none other than still presiding COVID policy czar, Dr. Anthony Fauci.

The MIT article can be read [here](#).

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the likely true origin of COVID, when it was verboten to do so. See:

- [“GATES LONG ON FAKE MEAT, SHORT ON CRYPTO”](#) (23 Feb 2021)
- [“IT’S TIME TO DISMANTLE THE WHO”](#) (20 Apr 2021)
- [“BATSH*T CRAZY: WUHAN WALLS CLOSING IN AROUND FAUCI”](#) (18 May 2021)
- [“NO EVIDENCE FOR NATURAL ORIGIN OF COVID VIRUS, SAYS FORMER STATE DEPT OFFICIAL”](#) (1 Jun 2021)
- [“GOVERNMENT COVER-UP OF FAUCI’S WUHAN LAB FUNDING SPREADS”](#) (3 Aug 2021)

TRENDS IN GEOPOLITICS



U.S. RAMPING UP MIDDLE EAST WARS

The Biden administration announced that it will send a guided-missile destroyer and fighter jets to help the United Arab Emirates defend itself against the growing threat from Houthis in neighboring Yemen who have recently staged high-profile attacks on Abu Dhabi.

U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. is set to meet with leaders in the U.A.E. to talk about Washington's growing commitment to the region. Part of the commitment includes a squadron of F-22 fighters and the USS Cole destroyer, *The Washington Post* reported.

He told the paper that the USS Cole has a “great radar” and the F-22s come with superior “look-down capabilities,” so the U.S. can monitor possible shipments of new weapons to the Houthis that are believed to be backed by Iran and who control large swaths of the country.

“The purpose of my visit is assurance,” McKenzie said. He said he hopes that leaders there understand that the U.S. is a “reliable partner.”

TRENDPOST: *The Trends Journal has reported extensively on the Yemen War backed and supported by President Barack Obama, the Nobel Peace Prize winner. (See [“U.S. FIGHTING YEMEN WAR,”](#) [“SAUDI-LED YEMEN SLAUGHTER ESCALATES,”](#) [“MURDEROUS YEMEN WAR: MILLIONS IN PERIL. WHO CARES?”](#)^S and [“YEMEN CRISIS WORSENS. IT’S NO NEWS.”](#))*

The U.S.’s assistance to the U.A.E. was on full display last month when soldiers employed a Patriot missile system to intercept two ballistic missiles that were fired by Houthis toward Abu Dhabi. The Houthis have promised revenge for recent U.A.E./Saudi massacres and warned the Emirates will “no longer be safe for investments.”

McKenzie was asked his thoughts on why he believes the Houthis are increasing the number of missile attacks and theorized that recent setbacks on the battlefield could be a reason.

"Hard to know all the Houthi reasons behind this," he said, according to *The Arab Weekly*. "I think the Houthis aren't used to losing ground in Yemen."

The war has destabilized the region and shows no signs of easing. As we have reported, the U.A.E. pulled most of its troops out of Yemen in 2019 but the Saudis and other members of the coalition were unable to keep the Houthis at bay, especially in the oil-and gas-rich Marib province.

Abu Dhabi sent its Giants Brigades back into Yemen on 15 November and the militia immediately made gains against the Houthis.

TRENDPOST: *Yemen’s civil war started in 2014, when the Houthis, who were ruling large sections of Yemen for over 1,000 years, overthrew the unelected president put in control by the Saudis. The Houthis eventually took control of Sana’a, and then seized the presidential palace.*

The Saudi-backed coalition is concerned that Houthi rule in Yemen would mean rival Iran would gain a foothold at the border with Saudi Arabia.

The war, the worst humanitarian crisis on earth, has been dragging on for seven years and has been blamed for 150,000 deaths and displacing millions.

See:

- [*“SAUDI-LED YEMEN SLAUGHTER ESCALATES”*](#)
- [*“MURDEROUS YEMEN WAR: MILLIONS IN PERIL. WHO CARES?”*](#)
- [*“YEMEN CRISIS WORSENS. IT’S NO NEWS”*](#)

TREND FORECAST: *The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen that is playing out due to Saudi Arabia’s attack on the nation.*

Thus, we maintain our forecast that the Saudi/U.S. alliance will not defeat the Houthis, and the war will rage on, killing tens of thousands of innocent people while inflicting devastating and deadly hardship across the nation.

The war will continue to be ignored by the mainstream media and the vast majority of the world will be ignorant to the human suffering the United States and Saudi Arabia have inflicted upon the nation.

So what is the U.S. going to do now that the Houthis are gaining ground in the conflict?

According to Anti-War.com:

“Lebanese newspaper al-Akhbar has leaked details from a document on talks between Saudi officials and the US special envoy on their respective intentions in the Yemen War.

As the U.S. understands it, the Saudis are very keen to end the Yemen War and leave ‘with dignity.’ They are envisioning a step toward a transitional government in Yemen.”

However, they note U.S. Special Envoy Timothy Lenderking made it clear that Washington, which has sold billions of dollars of weapon to the Saudis and its allies to fight the Yemen war, is not ready for peace, saying there is “the necessity of not leaving Yemen completely,” and that they want the Saudis to remain involved in Yemen’s government.

As for the Houthis in power, Anti-War.com notes,

“The tragedy of such an end is that it could’ve avoided the war entirely, as all the Houthis ever wanted was a move toward free elections and a new government, and it was only the insistence to try to keep President Hadi in power beyond his term in office, which ended 8 years ago, that led to the Saudi-led invasion.”

ERDOGAN INJECTS TURKEY INTO UKRAINE CONFLICT



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has a 40 percent approval rating at home and is fighting skyrocketing inflation, took a trip to Ukraine last week, playing the role of mediator between Russia and Ukraine. He said he made the trip because

Western countries have failed miserably in their effort to calm tensions in the region.

Erdogan called the U.S. a hindrance in these efforts and the Biden administration has not made a positive contribution in these discussions.

The Turkish leader commented:

“I have to say this very clearly: if you pay attention, the West has unfortunately not contributed anything to solving this matter. I can say they were literally only a hindrance. There is a serious issue in Europe now in

terms of leaders who can solve this issue [since Angela Merkel, the former German chancellor, stepped down.] When we look at...the United States, Biden has not yet shown a positive approach to the matter.”

Russia and Turkey have faced some geopolitical tensions in recent years, including the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. (See [“ARMENIA VS. AZERBAIJAN: SPREADING WAR.”](#))

Turkey was seen as a “bully in the region” and has pushed aside Russia from its role as a mediator between the two sides over the Armenian-controlled Nagorno-Karabakh, which has seen its worst violence in over 25 years at the time.

The conflict tested Moscow’s influence in the South Caucasus. Moscow ended up with the upper hand over Turkey by inserting its own peacekeepers into Nagorno-Karabakh, while Turkish troops were stationed outside the enclave.

Sinem Köseoğlu, an Al Jazeera reporter in Istanbul, said Erdogan sees himself as a viable mediator between Kyiv and Moscow because he believes he can “talk freely and frankly” with both Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Russia's Putin.

Erdogan has said that he does not want to see a conflict but said—if Russia decided to invade Ukraine—Turkey would do what is necessary to hold the eastern flank of NATO.

The report said that Moscow has declined invites from Ankara to bring the three leaders together because the Kremlin is unhappy with Turkey’s decision to supply combat drones to Kyiv.

Defense News reported that Turkey and Ukraine have both agreed to co-produce a new Turkish-made drone in Ukraine. Kyiv announced in September that it planned to purchase 24 additional Turkish unmanned combat aerial vehicles. Erdogan’s approval was seen as a rebuke of the Kremlin.

The New York Times reported that Ukraine has employed the Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drones against the Russian-backed separatists back in October. The paper said the strike stunned the separatists and angered Russia because it was an example of Kyiv using a NATO-provided weapon.

TREND FORECAST: The ***Trends Journal*** has reported on the dire economic situation that Erdogan faces on the domestic front. (See: [“TURKISH LIRA PAUSES ITS DECLINE; ERDOGAN FIRES STATISTICS CHIEF.”](#) [“TURKEY’S MARKET CRASH, CURRENCY CRISIS”](#)S and [“TURKEY: THE FAMOUS LIRA DIVE.”](#))

And as Gerald Celente has repeatedly noted, “When all else fails, they take you to war.” And Turkey is failing. With U.S. tensions increasing in both Syria and Ukraine, Turkey is poised to militarily intervene.

PUTIN ACCUSES U.S. OF TRYING TO PULL RUSSIA INTO CONFLICT



Last Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke publicly about Ukraine for the first time since December and blamed the Biden administration for essentially trying to drag Russia into a war because

Washington refused to negotiate on key security demands the Kremlin has regarding NATO's expansion east.

Putin hoped that NATO would guarantee that it would not accept Ukraine into its alliance. He also wanted the Alliance to remove troops and missile systems in bordering countries. (See [“BLINKEN MEETS WITH LAVROV: WAR HAWKS SCREAMING.”](#))

NATO's so-called “open-door” — allowing any country to join — was called a nonstarter and rejected.

“Let’s imagine Ukraine [becomes] a NATO member and starts these military operations. Are we supposed to go to war with the NATO bloc? Has anyone given that any thought? Apparently not,” Putin said.

NATO has attempted to act as a united front in the face of what it called Russian aggression. Mateusz Morawiecki, Poland’s prime minister, promised Kyiv that Warsaw would send military equipment.

The U.S. and U.K. have both provided Kyiv with artillery. It is reported that Ukraine is developing its own missile systems, including one that can travel up to 600 miles and potentially reach Moscow.

“In the future, a [potential] Ukrainian missile attack on Moscow is quite real,” Russian Lt. Gen. Valery Zaparenko, former senior member of Russia’s General Staff, told a media outlet in Russia. “Ukraine has the scientific, technical and production potential.”

The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the tension playing out on Ukraine’s eastern border. Putin has moved tanks and more than 100,000 troops to the border.

The U.S. sees the placement as a clear indication that war may be imminent. But the Kremlin denied the allegations, without providing any other reason as to why the troops have been positioned there.

TRENDPOST: (See [“U.S. CONTINUES TO RAMP UP COLD WAR RHETORIC,” “KREMLIN BLAMES UKRAINE FOR STOKING TENSIONS AT BORDER,” “U.S. VOWS UKRAINE SUPPORT” and “BLINKEN BELLOWS: U.S. COMMITMENT TO UKRAINE’S SOVEREIGNTY IS ‘IRONCLAD.’”](#))

“Their [U.S.] most important task is to contain Russia’s development,” Putin said. “Ukraine is just an instrument of achieving this goal.”

“This can be done in different ways, by drawing us into some kind of armed conflict and, with the help of other allies in Europe, forcing the introduction

against us of those harsh sanctions they were talking about now in the U.S.,” Putin added.

Jen Psaki, the White House press secretary, likened Putin’s comment to a fox screaming from “the top of the henhouse that he’s scared of the chickens.”

Ned Price, the spokesman from the State Department, also seemed to make light of Putin’s remark and said, “I will leave it to the Kremlinologists out there—budding, professional, amateur or otherwise—to read the tea leaves and try to interpret the significance of those remarks.”

Biden formally approved the deployment of 3,000 troops to Poland, Germany, and Romania in what is ostensibly a move to assure European allies in the face of Russian aggression. This is after the U.S. placed 8,500 troops on heightened alert.

“These forces are not going to fight in Ukraine,” John Kirby, the Pentagon spokesman, said, according to CNN.

Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, accused the U.S. of continuing its effort to “pump up tension in Europe.” He said the troop deployment is “the best proof that we, as Russia, have an obvious reason to be worried.”

Latvia, which became a full NATO member in 2004, told the U.S. that it is “ready and willing” to host more troops from the U.S.

A diplomat from the country, which borders Russia and Belarus, told the network that discussions with the Pentagon have been ongoing.

TREND FORECAST: Remember George W. Bush’s “Operation Enduring Freedom,” the Afghan War he launched in 2001 that endured for some 20 years and endured no Freedom that 88 percent of Americans supported?

Remember the President telling the world last August that “...the likelihood there’s going to be the Taliban overrunning everything and owning the whole country is unlikely”?

Yet, despite these overt murderous failures, the media sells the propaganda and the general public swallows the lies.

Gerald Celente has said that the U.S.—despite having the largest and most expensive military in history—has not won a war since World War II and cannot even win against third-world nations, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, etc.

The U.S.’s disastrous withdrawal from Kabul has further negated America’s military’s reputation. By their deeds you shall know them, and considering the U.S. unbroken line of military defeats, Beijing and Moscow see the U.S. as a fading power.

However, despite these deadly and costly failures, once again both political parties in Washington awarded the military industrial complex a record breaking defense budget. As a Christmas gift, on 27 December President Biden signed a nearly \$770 billion defense bill.

PUBLISHER’S NOTE: *Rumor (history?) has it that the Cold War between the U.S. and Russia, which began in 1947, ended in 1991. But rather than seeking Peace on Earth and keeping relationships respectful, most of America’s politicians and all of the military-industrial complex—and their western counterparts (i.e., “allies”)—have not stopped waging the Cold War.*

As we have been reporting since the end of the Cold War—from America’s Gulf War, Kosovo War, Afghan War, Iraq War... to its military interventions in Somalia, Libya, etc., plus its 800 military bases in 70 countries—Russia is a minor war-mongering nation compared to the U.S. track record of killing millions and stealing trillions from its taxpayers to wage these wars.

And, as we have reported in detail since the so-called “Russiagate” was launched by the Democratic Party and its media Presstitutes immediately following Trump’s win of the 2016 election, there has not been one shred of hard evidence proving Russia interfered with the election.

Yet, the drama continues, and most people buy it, just as most have swallowed other lies sold to them by their governments over the centuries. “Remember the Main”?

As the founder of [Occupy Peace & Freedom](#), as I see it, to keep pedaling hatred between the two nations, rather than creating movements toward peace, is morally, spiritually, and economically destructive.

Indeed, America was an ally of Russia in World War II and would not have achieved victory when it did without them.

Yet, following World War II, Russia became its enemy, while Japan and Germany—for which over 400,000 Americans died fighting—became U.S. allies and business partners.

TRENDPOST: *Long forgotten was the U.S. and NATO’S pledge not to expand into Eastern Europe following the deal made during the 1990 negotiations between the West and the Soviet Union over German unification.*

Therefore, in the view of Russia, it is taking self-defense actions to protect itself from NATO’s eastward march.

As detailed in The Los Angeles Times back in May of 2016, while the U.S. and NATO deny that no such agreement was struck, “...hundreds of memos, meeting minutes and transcripts from U.S. archives indicate otherwise.”

The article states:

“According to transcripts of meetings in Moscow on Feb. 9, then-Secretary of State James Baker suggested that in exchange for cooperation with Germany, the U.S. could make ‘iron-clad guarantees’ that NATO would not

expand ‘one inch eastward.’ Less than a week later, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to begin reunification talks. No formal deal was struck, but from all the evidence, the quid pro quo was clear: Gorbachev acceded to Germany’s western alignment and the U.S. would limit NATO’s expansion.”

TRENDPOST: As we have reported, completely absent in the American media reports of the current U.S. stand with Ukraine is the role Washington and Victoria Nuland played in the overthrow of its government in 2014.

A report from 2014 in the **Trends Journal** laid out the political maneuvers at the time in Ukraine: “Washington’s coup in Ukraine brought not only a threat to the Russian population in Ukraine but also a direct strategic threat to Russia itself.”

Nuland, who speaks Russian and French, boasted that Washington had invested \$5 billion in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Ukraine. Allegedly, the purpose of NGOs is to “teach democracy.”

Ukraine, however, already had a democracy. In reality, the NGO organizations are U.S. fifth columns that can be used to organize protests and to provide support for Washington’s candidates for the Ukraine government.

Indeed, in early February 2014, a recording was leaked of Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, Victoria Nuland, telling Geoffrey Pyatt, the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, that the UN was on board to “help glue” the plan to replace Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovich with Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

“Yats is the guy,” Nuland informed Pyatt, who was urging a quick move because “the Russians will be working behind the scenes to torpedo” the deal. “F#&* the EU!” Nuland told Pyatt.

“Exactly,” he responded. Shortly thereafter, Yanukovich was overthrown and “Yats” became president.

STATE DEPARTMENT'S CIA SHILL ATTACKS REPORTER WHO ASKED FOR EVIDENCE OF FALSE-FLAG ATTACK BY RUSSIA



Ned Price, the State Department spokesman, attacked a reporter who tried to get him to provide the evidence that the U.S. said it has to support the claim that Russia is planning a false-flag attack to help justify a war with Ukraine.

Matt Lee, the AP reporter, told Price that the U.S.'s allegations seemed to be inching towards "Alex Jones territory."

"The production of this propaganda video is one of a number of options that the Russian government is developing as a fake pretext to initiate and potentially justify military aggression against Ukraine," Price said.

"Well, that's quite a mouthful there," Lee said. "Well, you've made an allegation that they might do that. Have they actually done it?"

Price responded, "What we know, Matt, is what ... I have just said. That they have engaged in this activity."

"What activity?" Lee asked.

Price said it wasn't the first time "we have made these reports public."

"What report public?" Lee asked. "You have shown no evidence to confirm that ... What is the evidence? I mean, this is like 'crisis actors,' really? This is like Alex Jones territory you're getting into. What evidence do you have to support the idea that there is some propaganda film in the making?"

Price, who has worked as a senior analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency prior to working for the Obama administration, refused to provide any additional

information to Lee and asked him if he'd accept a transcript from the actual press conference as evidence. (See ["BIDEN PRESIDENCY= OBAMA 2021."](#))

"That's not evidence, that's you saying it," Lee said. "I would like to see some proof that ... shows that the Russians are doing that."

"I'm sorry, you don't like the content," Price responded. "I'm sorry you are doubting the information that is in the possession of the U.S. government."

Price announced in 2017 that he was making the difficult decision to resign as National Security Council spokesman during the Trump administration because he could not "in good faith serve this administration as an intelligence professional."

"I watched in disbelief when, during the third presidential debate, Trump casually cast doubt on the high-confidence conclusion of our 17 intelligence agencies, released that month, that Russia was behind the hacking and release of election-related emails," he said.

Trump said the "Cyber Hack is far greater in the Fake News Media than in actuality."

"Russia, Russia, Russia is the priority chant when anything happens because Lamestream is, for mostly financial reasons, petrified of discussing the possibility that it may be China (it may!)," he wrote on Twitter.

Price said later that he and Lee have had their "fair share of sparring sessions."

TREND FORECAST: *That a former CIA operative is the spokesperson for the State Department and it is accepted by both political parties and not condemned by the media, clearly exemplifies who controls America.*

Indeed, 5-Star General, Supreme Commander of the Allied forces during World War II, and two term United States President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, warned the

American people that the military/industrial complex had taken over the nation in his 17 January 1961 [Farewell Address](#).

And, their power and control is front and center in the State Department, with its CIA front man arrogantly talking down to journalists, and his refusal to provide evidence he claims the government has.

Therefore, without major Freedom, Peace and Justice movements and new political parties in power, the march to wars will continue to be the American Way.

U.S. CONDEMNS CONGO KILLING OF INNOCENTS



The U.S. ambassador to Congo took to Twitter to condemn the deadly attack on “defenseless civilians” at a makeshift refugee camp in the eastern region of the country, which has seen its security conditions worsen in recent months.

Mike Hammer, the ambassador, called the killing “unforgivable” and said the killers “must be brought to justice.”

The New York Times reported that the attack occurred last Tuesday night at the Plaine Savo camp located in Ituri province. Pierre Boisselet, the coordinator of the Kivu Security Tracker, told the paper that there have been 800 deaths in the province within the past six months.

The most recent attack resulted in 60 killings. The paper said the victims had been sleeping in their white tents when they were shot and butchered. Many of the victims were women and children, the paper said.

Congo said it dispatched its own forces to find the suspected killers from the Cooperative for Development of Congo militia, which is also known as CODECO. The group has been blamed for hundreds of civilian deaths and forced thousands to flee.

“I first heard cries when I was still in bed. Then several minutes of gunshots. I fled and I saw torches and people crying for help I realized it was the CODECO who had invaded our site,” Lokana Lussa, a camp resident, told VOANews.com.

The report said these fighters mainly consist of members from the Lendu farming community, which has a history of clashing with Hema herders. The country has placed the mineral-rich province under a “state of siege” since May.

Hassan Khannen Je, an analyst who specializes in the Horn of Africa, told Al Jazeera that the root of the conflict between the farmers and herders can be traced to the “colonial history, which there was a perception that the Hema community was particularly favored.”

“This, later on, evolved to become an ethno-nationalist, religious cult...with a very extremist kind of approach,” he said. There is no government in the region, which is home to 120 armed groups, the report said.

The *Times* reported that there are nearly 5.6 million people who are displaced in the country as a November.

TRENDPOST: *While the United States—the world leader in waging war and massacring millions—condemns the latest Congo slaughter, it was the United States CIA that set the stage for the state of that nation.*

On 17 January, 1961, the same day U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower gave his farewell address warning the American people that the military industrial complex was in control of the country and robbing it of the genius of the scientists, the sweat of the laborers and the future of the children.

Patrice Lumumba, Congo's first elected president, was executed in a plot that was allegedly designed by the CIA and its Belgian cohorts.

Lumumba was seized, tortured, and executed in a coup supported by the Belgian gang, the CIA, Jacobin magazine reported. He was replaced by the US-backed dictator Mobutu Sese Seko who the magazine said "laid the foundation for the decades of internal strife, dictatorship, and economic decline that have marked postcolonial Congo."

The killing occurred while the Cold War was playing out, and the U.S. and its allies could not imagine a world where the raw materials found in the country could somehow end up in the hands of the Soviets.

The Guardian, in a 2011 article, reported that Lumumba's hope was to use the raw materials to improve the living conditions of its people.

"In Congo, Lumumba's assassination is rightly viewed as the country's original sin. Coming less than seven months after independence, it was a stumbling block to the ideals of national unity, economic independence, and pan-African solidarity that Lumumba had championed."

TRENDSPOST: *It is not about civil and human rights that governments fight for... it's the bottom line.*

*Last year, in a **Trends Journal** article titled ["COBALT PRICE JUMPS AS SUPPLIES TIGHTEN."](#) we reported that most of the world's cobalt is mined in the Democratic Republic of Congo, then shipped to South Africa's port of Durban. From there, more than 40 percent of it goes to China for initial processing before being sent to battery makers.*

With almost all of the world's cobalt supply chain flowing through just three countries, inventories remain at the mercy of logistical or political disruption or manipulation.

“It’s very easy for countries like China to dominate the cobalt market because it only needs to be in control of a limited number of mines” to skew the market, Julia Kinnard, a professor of economic geology at the University of Witwatersrand, commented to The Wall Street Journal.

Cobalt prevents EV batteries from overheating and can extend the battery life. Cobalt metal is trading at four-year highs at around \$71,000 a tonne, Reuters reported. Congo produces 70 percent of the world’s cobalt.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: ISRAEL’S TREATMENT OF PALESTINIANS AMOUNTS TO APARTHEID



While essentially unreported in the United States, and chastised when it was, the human rights group Amnesty International said last week that Israel’s treatment of Palestinians meets the internationally accepted definition of apartheid.

This is not the first time Israel has been criticized for its treatment of Palestinians. (See: [“ISRAEL ACCUSED OF APARTHEID BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH.”](#)) Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth told *The New York Times* in May 2021 that the “oppression of Palestinians there has reached a threshold and a performance that meets the definitions of the crimes of apartheid and persecution.”

The paper reported at the time that Palestinians have been making the claim about the conditions there since the 1960s. President Jimmy Carter agreed with this back in 2006, and there is a growing number of Jewish human-rights groups that also make the claim. Jerusalem-based B’Tselem also made the claim.

“This trifecta of Israeli, American, and British documentation will prove an extremely important breakthrough for Palestinian human rights in terms of its

timing, precedence, scope, legality, globality, boldness and ramifications,” Marwan Bishara, a senior political analyst, wrote in Al Jazeera after the Amnesty's 211-page report came out.

A Financial Times report pointed out that Ehud Barak, the former prime minister, warned that Israel risked becoming an apartheid state unless peace was made with the Palestinians.

The London-based human-rights group based its findings on a five-year analysis of the law that governs millions living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the *FT* reported. The paper said there are no new allegations against Israel, but called the policy Israel's effort to perpetuate a Jewish hegemony at the expense of the Arab population.

“Israel has established and maintained an institutionalized regime of oppression and domination of the Palestinian population for the benefit of Jewish Israelis—wherever it has exercised control over Palestinians’ lives since 1948,” Amnesty’s report summary said.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Amnesty also called on the United Nations to sanction Israel, and the International Criminal Court to investigate and hold Israelis criminally responsible.

The Financial Times reported that the Israeli government shot back at the claim and said the report will “pour fuel onto the fire of anti-Semitism.”

Fourteen human rights organizations based in Israel have come to Amnesty International, *RTÉ*, an Irish news outlet reported.

They said: "We wholeheartedly reject the idea that Amnesty International's report is baseless, singles out Israel or displays antisemitic animus. However, we are particularly concerned by the Israeli government's extremely irresponsible allegation of antisemitism."

TRENDPOST: *Israel took control of the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 war. Since then, in addition to destroying Palestinian houses and buildings on the land they seized, they have been, and continue, to build massive “settlements.”*

As reported by Bloomberg in January 2020:

“Almost a tenth of Israel’s Jews live in east Jerusalem and the West Bank, outside their country’s recognized borders. The population of Jewish settlers in the West Bank has grown four times faster than Israel’s itself since 1995. Settlers regard themselves as inhabiting land that is rightfully theirs. A different view is held by the International Court of Justice, a branch of the United Nations, which Israel regards as biased against it. The court concluded in a 2004 opinion that Jewish settlements in what it calls occupied Palestinian territory are illegal.”

Under international law, Israeli settlements are illegal. They violate Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 that states, “The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.

The U.N. Security Council, the U.N. General Assembly, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Court of Justice, and the High Contracting Parties to the Convention have all affirmed the Fourth Geneva Convention applies, that this is occupied territory, and Israeli settlements there are illegal.

As for Israel’s “settlement” intentions, they were made clear by one of the nation’s respected leaders:

“We must define our position and lay down basic principles for a settlement. Our demands should be moderate and balanced, and appear to be reasonable. But in fact they must involve such conditions as to ensure that the enemy rejects them. Then we should manoeuvre and allow him to define his own position, and reject a settlement on the basis of a

compromise solution. We should then publish his demands as embodying unreasonable extremism.”

— Chief of Intelligence General Yehoshafat Harkabi, Ma’ariv, 2 November 1973

PRESIDENT BIDEN ON WAR PATH: WOMEN CHILDREN KILLED IN SYRIA



Last Wednesday, President Biden stayed up past his bedtime to watch American troops launch a dead of night operation at a home in Syria’s Idlib province that resulted in the death of a U.S. terror target and 12 others, including six children.

John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said there were no U.S. casualties and called the raid “successful.” Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, the target, took over ISIS after Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed by U.S. forces. NPR reported that al-Qurayshi had been tasked with leading the group’s “remnants as they regrouped following the downfall of their caliphate and shifted underground to wage an insurgency in Iraq and Syria.”

"He was responsible for the recent brutal attack on a prison in northeast Syria ... He was the driving force behind the genocide of the Yazidi people," Biden said. "We all remember the gut-wrenching stories, mass slaughters that wiped out entire villages, thousands of women and young girls sold into slavery, rape used as a weapon of war."

Biden said al-Qurayshi, who was killed about nine miles from al-Baghdadi, blew himself up on the third floor of the home and killed his own family members. The raid lasted for two hours and had been in the works for months. Kirby said there are “strong, strong indications” that the civilians who died in the raid were not

caused by the U.S. forces, but the Pentagon said it is willing to review the operation.

The so-called leaks from the Pentagon appeared to be working overtime after news reports, citing human rights groups, started to emerge that civilians had been killed. (See: ["SYRIA: U.S. BACKTRACKS ON PULLOUT."](#))

Jamil el-Deddo, a resident at a refugee camp nearby, told the Associated Press that the first moments of the raid were “terrifying.”

“We were worried it could be Syrian aircraft, which brought back memories of barrel bombs that used to be dropped on us,” el-Deddo said.

Murder Inc.

The Pentagon hopes to avoid any comparisons to the August U.S. drone strike in Afghanistan that resulted in the deaths of 10 civilians, including seven children. *The New York Times* reported that the U.S. said earlier that the strike was necessary to prevent an Islamic State attack on troops that were still in the country.

Despite these murderous crimes, Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III decided not to punish anyone involved in the strike.

“What we saw here was a breakdown in process, and execution in procedural events, not the result of negligence, not the result of misconduct, not the result of poor leadership,” Kirby said. “So I do not anticipate there being issues of personal accountability to be had with respect to the Aug. 29 airstrike.”

Steven Kwon, the founder and president of Nutrition & Education International, told *The Times* that the decision not to fault anyone was “shocking.”

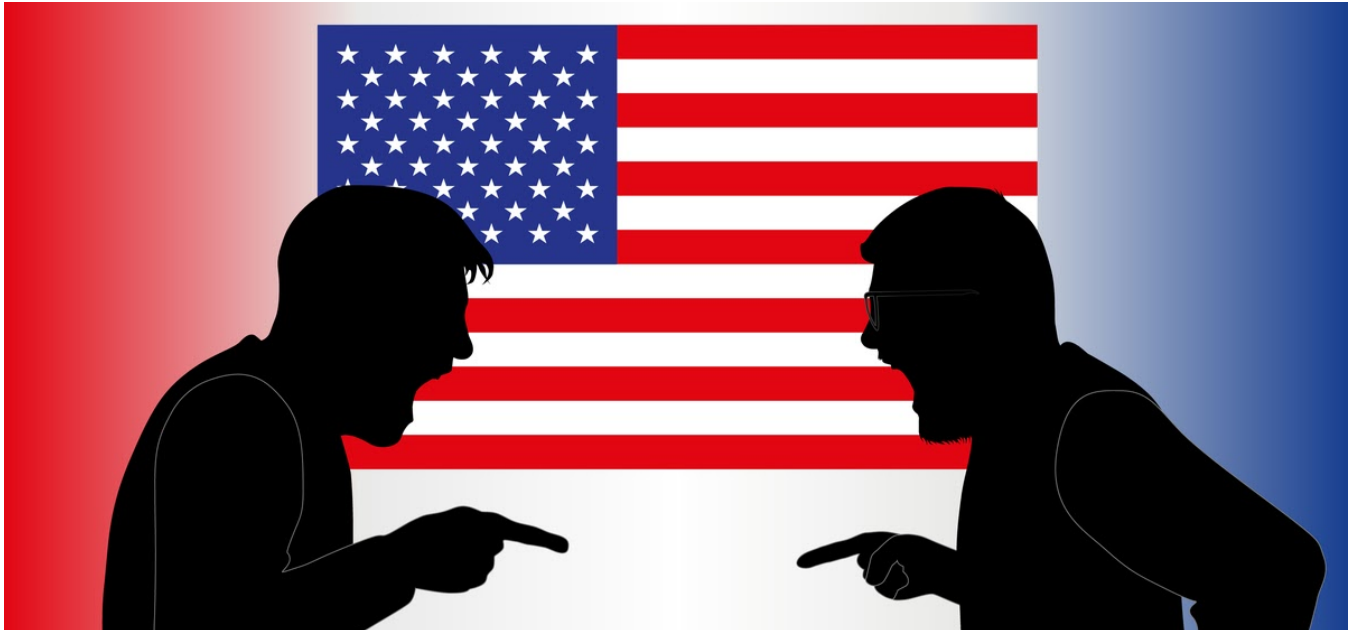
“How can our military wrongly take the lives of 10 precious Afghan people and hold no one accountable in any way?” he said.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: *The U.S. invaded and occupied a sovereign nation that has done nothing to threaten America. The War on Terror has now been waged for two decades, and there have been no attacks on U.S. soil despite the United States spending trillions and killing millions since it launched the Afghan War in 2001.*

Instead, they justify the war launched by President Obama in 2011, which has killed some 600,000 Syrians and displaced over 10 million, because “Assad has to go” and now justify it under the guise of not only “protecting our Kurdish allies” but to “defeat ISIS.”

And the media sells it, the public buys it... and other than the Universal Church of Freedom, Peace and Justice, there is no call to stop these killings from any religious orders that we have heard from.

TRENDS-EYE VIEW



U.S. ELECTIONS: MONEY MOB IN FULL CONTROL

From Kindergarten to Graduate Schools, Americans are brainwashed with the blabber that politicians are representatives of the people. And when they are running for office, candidates tell the tale to voters that when elected, it is the needs of We the People they will be fighting for.

However, without being accused of being woke/racist, in these times of moral dementia sweeping across Dumfukistan, it is “Dark Money” from the money mob that buys off the politicians from the two party crime syndicate that is in full control.

The “Dark Money” from non-profit organizations that are known to traditionally align with Democrats, spent more than \$1.5 billion in 2020 on their favorite candidates, compared to the \$900 million that groups seen as favorable to Republicans send to their hopefuls.

The New York Times, which first reported on the donations, said the so-called “Dark Money” started to be embraced by Democrats who were opposed to

former President Trump. These nonprofit groups could be vehicles for mega-donors to "make multimillion-dollar outlays in total secrecy" due to disclosure laws, the report said.

Two Faced

Democrats have long spoken out against these kinds of donations to Republican candidates and tried to frame the problem as an example of how politicians can be bought and sold.

A dark money group aligned with Sen. Chuck Schumer pulled in \$92 million from anonymous donors to elect Democrats, according to a report by Fox News. The report said that while the group was pulling in cash—from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020—Schumer and other Democrats were calling out Republicans for their use of dark money.

"Majority Forward is kind of a dark money empire that the Democrat party really doesn't want to talk about, especially Chuck Schumer," Parker Thayer, an investigator at the Capital Research Center, told the network.

He continues:

"It's not just them either. They control a network of four different dark money nonprofit groups as well, and all of this money eventually goes to Democrat-aligned PACs, and the initial donors behind it are essentially untraceable."

The *Times* pointed out that the Democrats' "newfound success" in pocketing these funds "exposes the stock tension between their efforts to win elections and their commitment to cartel secretive political spending by the superrich." The paper said nonprofits are not obligated to abide by the same transparency rules as political parties or campaigns.

TREND FORECAST: As we reported on 20 April 2021, the ["WALL ST. GANG SPENT \\$3B ON 2020 ELECTION CAMPAIGNS."](#) In this case, Republicans got 47

percent of the dough and Democrats, which play the “liberal” line, pulled in 53 percent of the money.

Plain and simple, without big money behind a candidate running for office, the chances of beating one of the two party mobsters is slim and none. (See [“POLLS EMBRACE CRYPTO CAMPAIGN FUNDING”](#) and [“HOW BIG TECH MAINTAINS ITS MONOPOLY.”](#))

TRUMP CAMPAIGN MONEY BUMP



Hate him, love him—there is hardly an in-between—former President Trump is still playing the man in charge of the Republican party, as he continues his imposing national presence and rallies and events, while raking in millions in party contributions.

Trump’s political machine in January had more than \$122 million in cash to spend as it sees fit. The *Financial Times*, citing the haul, reported that Trump has proven to be the party’s “most formidable fundraiser.”

“[Trump] is extremely engaged in trying to stay relevant, trying to settle scores, and making sure that when the midterms happen, he has got at least as many people on his side as he does now, and hopefully more,” Dan Eberhart, a Republican donor, told the paper.

Still playing the Presidential “trump” card, Trump continues to flirt with running for president again. Last month, during a golf outing, he was filmed walking to take a swing, “First on the tee, the 45th President of the United States. The 45th and 47th.”

The *FT*’s report pointed out that a vast percentage of the funds came from individual donors and the average amount was \$31. The Republican National

Committee also reported having \$56.3 million cash in hand at the end of December.

Trump's cash on hand was about the same as the Democratic and Republican national committees reported to start 2022—combined, *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The *Journal* reported that Trump's personal businesses have benefited from these political committees. The report said Save America paid about \$100,000 for rental and catering fees to the Trump Hotel Collection. "MAGA PAC reported paying rent or meeting expenses for \$188,000 to Trump Tower Commercial, \$53,000 to the Mar-a-Lago Club and \$3,000 to Trump Restaurants," the report said.

TREND FORECAST: *Back in May of 2016, when all the polls and the mainstream media had said Hillary Clinton would beat Donald Trump in the race for the White House, the **Trends Journal** said Trump would win.*

In 2024, while Trump has a strong voter base, considering his Operation Warp Speed pro-COVID Jab stance, plus segments of his once strong base tiring of his rhetoric and his failure to live up to his campaign promises such as reigning in China's trade, building "The Wall," and fixing the nation's rotting infrastructure... We forecast a stronger Republican candidate can replace him as a frontrunner in the Presidential Reality Show®.

At this time, we identify Ron DeSantis, the Governor of Florida, as the top Republican Presidential candidate. Other than DeSantis, we do not, at this time, see any other strong Trump contenders.

UNIONIZATION ON-TREND: AMAZON WORKERS VOTE TO UNIONIZE



Unionization was one of our Top Trends for 2022, and as we have been reporting each week, across the work spectrum, it's "on-trend."

Last Friday, The National Labor Relations Board started to send ballots to about 6,100 Amazon employees at a warehouse in Alabama who voted last year against unionization—which was challenged after allegations that the Seattle-based company violated labor laws during the voting last year.

Kristina Bell, a worker at the Bessemer, Ala., facility, struck an optimistic tone about the new vote and told *The Wall Street Journal* that co-workers at the factory are a lot more informed about the benefits of unionization after the last vote.

The *Journal* reported that Amazon has denied violating the labor laws and said it listened to the workers there to ensure "great pay and benefits in a safe and inclusive workplace."

TRENDPOST: *The shortage of workers and the desire of employed workers to organize and go on strike share a common root cause: people are far less inclined to perform menial, unfulfilling jobs for meager pay. (See ["STARBUCKS STORE TO UNIONIZE, A TOP TREND FOR 2022?"](#) ["ACTIVISION STUDIO GROUP WILL FORM A UNION, SOLIDIFYING TRENDS JOURNAL FORECAST."](#) ["POLITICO JOURNALISTS FORM UNION. A TREND OF THE TIMES"](#) and ["REI: UNIONIZATION TREND EXPANDS AS FORECAST."](#))*

Perry Connelly, an Amazon employee, spoke to the Jeff Bezos-owned *Washington Post* and accused the company of taking advantage of a "captive community" where there are not many employment options.

“A lot of people, like me, thought Amazon was going to be a great place to work,” he said. “You know, you’re talking about working for a billionaire, a multi-billionaire. So you get in there, and it’s unorganized. Managers don’t always know what’s going on.”

Stuart Appelbaum, the president of the Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union, told the paper that the labor movement is obligated to take on the company due to its model of work “that is unacceptable, which relies on dehumanizing the workers. A spokeswoman from the company said 450 workers have been promoted there since the factory opened.”

The paper said Amazon “went all out” to get workers to oppose joining a union and was successful in getting 71 percent of the employees to vote in opposition. (A U.S. Postal Service mailbox was placed in front of the factory, and the union said the placement intimidated employees and gave them the false impression that these votes would somehow get back to Amazon.)

The paper interviewed employees who were opposed to unionizing and essentially asked what more the company could be doing. One employee said she has a brain tumor and her treatment is covered by company-provided health insurance and her medication—which would be about \$3,000 a month, costs her \$10.

The *Journal* pointed out that the workers who voted in opposition to unionization last time said they did not think a union would substantially improve their lives.

Steven Greenhouse, a journalist and author, wrote in *The Guardian* that the average Amazon warehouse worker leaves the job within just eight months, which is an “unmistakable sign that Amazon’s jobs are unpleasant, to put it kindly, and that many Amazon workers quickly realize they hate working there because of the stress, breakneck pace, constant monitoring and minimal rest breaks.”

TREND FORECAST: *Unionization will continue to be a Top Trend; the more limited the supply of workers (made worse by "No Jab, No Job" mandates;*

(see [“WANT TO KEEP YOUR JOB? GET THE JAB!”](#) and [“NO JAB, NO JOB. VACCINE MANDATES ‘WORKING’”](#)), the more powerful the trend toward unionization will be.

And, as inflation continues to rise faster than wages, corporations that wish to incentivize their workforce to do and give the best they can, will raise the pay scale to levels higher than inflation rates. In doing so, they will create atmospheres of mutual appreciation.

MONEY TALKS: ROTTERDAM TO DISMANTLE HISTORIC BRIDGE SO BEZOS MEGA-YACHT CAN PASS THROUGH



Jeff Bezos, the Amazon founder worth \$185 billion, may have gotten Rotterdam to agree to take apart a historic bridge in order for his mega-yacht to squeak by after its massive masts are put into place.

The De Hef Bridge is considered a rare historic monument in a city that was ravaged during WWII and reports of the agreement have sparked debate in the city.

“It has been restored a few years ago and the promise was made not to touch it, so it is not understandable that now, just because a ship wants to pass, we have to dismantle it,” Ton Wesselink, the president of the Rotterdam Historical Society, said.

After early reports, the city appeared to walk back its position and the city said a final decision has not been made. The city said it received a request from the shipbuilder to temporarily lift the middle part of the 95-year-old structure.

The New York Times, citing a city spokeswoman, reported that it is unclear how much it would cost to take the bridge apart.

The paper said the 417-foot sailboat is set to become the world's largest sailing yacht and will likely cost Bezos more than \$500 million. The paper also pointed out that the bridge is not currently in use.

Dennis Tak, a Labor Party city councilor, told the paper that the construction would create jobs for the city and could be a “great way to take some of his money.”

TRENDPOST: *We note this article to continue to illustrate how the billionaire class keeps getting bigger, and the bigger they get the more control they have.*

Indeed, Siebe Thissen, the author of the book “The Boy Who Jumped From the Bridge,” told the paper that the bridge is a reminder of the “old days” in the city. “People say, ‘Why this guy?’ It’s a working-class town, and they all know that Jeff Bezos, of course, he exploits his workers, so people say, ‘Why should this guy be able to demolish the bridge for his boat?’”

GOING NUKE IS NOT GOING GREEN. EUROPEAN COMMISSION FACES LAWSUIT



Brussels faces a lawsuit from E.U. member states accusing it of favoring pro-nuclear and pro-gas countries after moving to include natural gas and nuclear energy as forms of green energy.

The *Financial Times* reported that the designation came in its “taxonomy for sustainable finance” paper, which aims to point private companies and capital to activities considered to be environmentally sustainable.

The 27 countries that make up the European Union have disagreements on how nuclear power and natural gas can be considered “green.”

Mairead McGuinness, the E.U. commissioner for financial services, admitted that the unrevised final text could be imperfect, “but it's a real solution that moves us forward towards our ultimate goal of climate neutrality.”

“The taxonomy does not mandate investment in certain sectors. It does not prohibit investment in sectors covered. It is a signpost towards the private investment market,” she said.

The report said new nuclear power stations will be able to qualify for the green label prior to 2045 if countries are able to lay out how they will be able to handle waste management and decommissioning. Both nuclear and natural gas could be classified as a “sustainable investment” if they meet targets that have been put in place.

One of the key debates hinges on what to do with nuclear waste produced in these nuclear power plants. The U.K. government is looking for a location to bury more than 50 years' worth of toxic nuclear waste about half a mile underground.

The *FT* reported that the boroughs of Allerdale and Copeland in Cumbria are potential sites. The report last week said this is the fourth attempt by the government to find a location for the waste. The report said any location will have to store the waste for 100,000 years before it reaches safe levels.

The U.K. has plans for more nuclear plants with the aim of reducing its carbon emissions. The U.K. already relies on nuclear energy for 17 percent of its electricity.

“If you were sat right on top of one of those [high-level waste] containers you would be dead within several hours,” Dr. Claire Corkhill, an expert on underground nuclear waste storage, told the paper.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has said the best storage for the waste is in geological disposal facilities, which would be placed in metal or concrete

containers and sealed permanently in vaults hundreds of yards below solid rock, the paper reported.

“I cannot understand the decision of the E.U.,” Karl Nehammer, Austria’s chancellor, said, according to the BBC.

The report said that he plans legal action if the guidance goes forward. Luxembourg has also said it will join legal action, the report said. France, which is a country that relies on nuclear power, has supported the decision.

The BBC report pointed out that the E.U. was not requiring any member state to take action, but the “E.U. Taxonomy” was just intended to show private investors how to invest in green initiatives.

Critics have called the classification system “greenwashing,” which is considered a symbolic gesture in order to create a misleading pro-environmental image. The report said the labels have not been finalized. Green parties have also been vocal critics of the plans.

TREND FORECAST: *As we have forecast, it will be a long haul before the world goes “Green.” There will not be a fast move to alternative energies until new ones that are affordable, efficient and truly “sustainable,” are invented.*

And as for nuclear energy as an energy of the future, please see:

- [“RADIOACTIVE NUCLEAR WASTE, FUKUSHIMA, CHERNOBYL GOOD. COAL BAD”](#)
- [“A NEW PATH TO CLEAN NUCLEAR ENERGY”](#)
- [“FRANCE EARMARKS BILLIONS FOR NUCLEAR AND ‘GREEN’ ENERGY: INVESTORS BULLISH ON URANIUM.”](#)

MOVE OVER OPERATION WARP SPEED, IT'S BIDEN'S CANCER MOONSHOT



With Ukrainian war talk screaming, equity markets volatility increasing, the COVID War raging and inflation spiking, President Biden last week shifted the nation's focus to a new Promised Land.

He told the U.S. that he wants to reignite the “cancer moonshot” to cut cancer deaths by half within the next quarter-century—an ambitious goal that is backed by nothing but more empty promises.

“Let there be no doubt,” Biden said. “Now that I am president, this is a presidential White House priority—period.”

The move comes about a year after drug companies competed to bring vaccines against COVID-19 that have been credited with preventing additional deaths. (Critics of the vaccines say they failed to live up to their billings because those vaccinated can still be infected and spread the virus.)

Some cancer experts have questioned the ability of the White House to dramatically reduce the number of deaths. They noted that the Biden administration pointed to screenings as one way to improve outcomes.

But the paper pointed out that screenings alone will not affect the number substantially because the only cancers that have an “indisputably” lower death rate upon early detection are colon and cervical cancer.

Stephen Brozak, the president of WBB Securities, which specializes in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, told *The New York Times* that the time and money would be better spent on reducing the obesity problem in the U.S. and smoking.

“This moonshot is 100 percent hype; this is the absolute wrong way to do this,” he said.

The administration did not put a price tag on the initiative, but Biden imagined a DARPA-like research organization. The country will diagnose 1.9 million cases this year alone and expects more than 609,000 deaths, the report said.

His plan calls for investments in prevention, screenings, and treatment.

Nicholas Freudenberg, a professor of public health at the City University of New York, wrote in *Stat News* that the concept of a “moonshot against cancer is problematic.”

He pointed out that there are more than 200 forms of cancer—each with its own subtypes—and all come from different causes and require different treatment. (See [“NEW TREATMENT WEARS OUT CANCER.”](#) [“PFIZER BUYS CANCER BIOTECH FIRM FOR \\$2.26 BILLION”](#) and [“OBESITY GROWS IN STATES.”](#))

Presidential Crap

With the Vietnam War raging and inflation skyrocketing, to drift the public’s mind in a new direction, Former President Nixon announced at the State of the Union in 1971 that he would ask Congress for \$100 million to find a cure for cancer.

“The time has come in America when the same kind of concentrated effort that split the atom and took men to the moon should be turned toward conquering this dread disease. Let the U.S. make a total national commitment to achieve this goal,” he said.

Freudenberg cited Sol Spiegelman, a cancer researcher during the Nixon administration, who called an all-out effort to cure cancer at the time was like “trying to land a man on the moon without knowing Newton’s law of gravity.”

“Fifty years later, much more is known about cancer but many types of cancer still lack effective treatments or cures and research on prevention has yet to be a priority,” Freudenberg wrote.

Ned Sharpless, the head of the National Cancer Institute, told Bloomberg that Biden’s initiative is “bold, but achievable.”

“But if we’re going to reduce mortality by 50% in 25 years, we’re going to have to invest in the science and technologies that will do that,” he said.

TRENDPOST: *We note this Biden vow to illustrate the empty words and deeds of politicians. Richard Nixon’s promise to win the War on Cancer was nothing more than bullshit. The war has been lost, and so too with Biden’s promise. It is nothing more than a great distraction.*

And, with the drug lords in charge, there is never a mention of getting healthy and building up one’s immune system.

This is clearly evidenced by Washington and governments around the world telling people to roll up their sleeves to take three Operation Warp Speed gene therapy COVID-19 jabs, while refusing to suggest that individuals should build up their immune systems to fight the virus.

But instead of suggesting to stop gulping down fast food/junk food/fat foods, ice cream, candy, soda, it’s a COVID Jab a year.

There has also been a clear societal shift when it comes to obesity. "Fat shaming" is real, and it is shameful to suggest that someone drop a few pounds and get in shape. In the new dead-woke world, it's their body and they should be proud. Who cares how you look... you're you!

Indeed, when Jonathan Newman, the CEO of salad chain Sweetgreen quoted CDC numbers that, “78 percent of hospitalizations due to COVID are obese and overweight people,” he was attacked by Presstitutes and social media freaks who accused him of shaming the obese and overweight American majority.

They also said he was ignorant of the facts that low income individuals and their families are fattened up because all they can eat is junk food.

However, as we have continually noted, for those who take time to cook, it is cheaper and more healthy to eat at home, thus, even the poor can eat healthy and lose weight (See [“Cheap family meals: Budget recipes under £1 per head.”](#))

TRENDPOST: *It should also be noted that one of the first things politician and bureaucratic “health officials” did when they launched the COVID War, was to order cities to close down playgrounds, gyms and keep people inside where they stressed out about job security but able to buy all the alcohol they can drink since liquor stores were deemed “essential.” (See [“BOOZE BINGE ESSENTIAL.”](#))*

TREND FORECAST: *Unfortunately, as economies sink deeper into despair, so, too, will the human spirit of so many who have been morally and financially devastated by these unprecedented political maneuvers that have, within just a few months, sapped the vestiges of liberty, love, joy, and beauty from the planet.*

Beyond alcohol, as we had forecast for months, drug addiction, legal and illegal, will continue to claim more victims in the coming years as the “Greatest Depression” worsens, civil unrest escalates, military clampdowns tighten... and geopolitical tensions intensify.

NATURAL HEALING KILLS COVID. VITAMIN “D” A WINNER



system.

We have been saying since the beginning of the COVID War, that there was not a peep from the Presstitutes, politicians and bureaucratic “health official” hacks, that one of the best ways to defeat the coronavirus is to get healthy and strengthen the immune

Yet, doctors that recommended doing so, such as Dr. Joseph Mecorla, were blackballed by the Big Tech and demeaned by mainstream media. (In fact, we highly recommend his book, co-authored by Ronnie Cummins, *The Truth About COVID-19*).

In the New ABnormal, the people of the world have been told by their masters that only a drug lord injection would save them from the coronavirus.

But now it's official! Natural Healing is recommended.

Scientists from Israel's Bar Ilan University and the Galilee Medical Center said vitamin D can play a significant role in preventing serious illness from COVID-19 infection.

“We found it remarkable, and striking, to see the difference in the chances of becoming a severe patient when you are lacking in vitamin D compared to when you're not,” Dr. Amiel Dror, a Galilee Medical Center physician, said, according to *The Times of Israel*.

He continued,

“What we're seeing when vitamin D helps people with COVID infections is a result of its effectiveness in bolstering the immune systems to deal with viral pathogens that attack the respiratory system. This is equally relevant for omicron as it was for previous variants.”

The paper reported that the study was published in the journal *PLOS One* on Thursday and found that vitamin D deficiency significantly increases the risk of serious infection. (See [“RED WINE LINKED TO PREVENTING COVID-19 INFECTION.”](#))

The paper noted that the study was conducted before the vaccines were released. Four in five people in the Middle East are low in the vitamin, the paper said, citing a 2011 study.

The study showed that 26 percent of those who died from the virus were deficient in the vitamin prior to infection, compared to just 3 percent who had normal levels.

The study adjusted for age, gender, season, morbidities, and found similar results across the board.

The study focused on 1,176 patients who were admitted into hospitals between April 2020 and February 2021. The patients with a deficiency were 14 times more likely to have severe or critical cases of the virus.

“This study contributes to a continually evolving body of evidence suggesting that a patient’s history of vitamin D deficiency is a predictive risk factor associated with poorer COVID-19 clinical disease course and mortality,” Professor Michael Edelstein, a co-author of the study from Azrieli Faculty of Medicine of Bar-Ilan University said.

“It is still unclear why certain individuals suffer severe consequences of COVID-19 infection while others don’t. Our finding adds a new dimension to solving this puzzle.”

TRENDPOST: *The Vitamin D Israel Times article was barely reported in the mainstream media.*

*And for **Trends Journal** subscribers, as we have noted, it’s old news.*

*The **Trends Journal** has reported extensively on the COVID-19 outbreak and who is most at risk for serious infection.*

See:

- [“VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY LINKED TO COVID-19 DEATHS”](#)
- [“EFFECTIVE WAYS TO KEEP YOUR RESPIRATORY SYSTEM HEALTHY”](#)
- [“MEDICAL DOC: ‘BEST MASK IS A HEALTHY IMMUNE SYSTEM”](#)

- [“COVID-19 & OBESITY: THE ELEPHANT IS STILL IN THE ROOM”](#)

TRENDPOST: Last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that some 78 percent of Americans who contracted the virus and were hospitalized, put on a ventilator, or died from COVID-19 were either obese or overweight.

Their report stated that between March to December 2020, 27.8 percent of these victims were overweight, and 50.2 percent were obese.

Again, as we note, with some 70 percent of Americans overweight, of which 42 percent are obese, the U.S. is #1 in COVID deaths.

(See our 26 January article on the link between obesity and COVID: [“JUNK FOOD VS. COVID-19: THE WINNER IS?”](#) and our 28 July article [“COVID VICTIMS: THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL.”](#))

FREE STATES: NEW CATO INSTITUTE REPORT RANKS THEM FROM FIRST TO LAST



New Hampshire really does take its state motto, “Live Free Or Die,” seriously.

The sunshine state of Florida exudes a healthy amount of personal and economic freedom as well, along with Nevada, South

Dakota and Tennessee.

Hawaii, on the other hand, may be exotic and a dream vacation, but on the freedom index, it’s a nightmare.

And New York? The classic 80’s Kurt Russell flick “Escape From New York” might be the operative phrase for the prison state.

Those are some of the assessments of a 2021 Cato Institute (CI) report, “Freedom In The 50 States: An Index of Personal and Economic Freedom.”

The libertarian think-tank’s analysis ranks all 50 states, using various criteria and statistics, to compare and contrast states and regions.

CI has been offering measures and data regarding state freedoms since 2000. The 2021 guide represents their sixth annual comprehensive report.

Will everyone agree with CI’s methodologies?

Probably not. The analysis awards points for things like sports betting, marijuana, and gay marriage legalization, but ignores property tax levies as a measure of freedom.

Even more inexplicably, the report left the COVID elephant completely out of the room. Widely varying COVID policies of different states were not figured into the CI assessments.

Thus, Michigan, which under Gretchen Whitmer endured some of the more draconian lockdown measures of any state, somehow managed to rank 7th on the freedom index.

North Carolina outranked its southern neighbor South Carolina, at number 16, compared to 28, which left some commenters who happen to live in the region scoffing.

But with all that said, the Cato Institute’s effort does attempt to illuminate the current climate of freedom in America, which seems at more of a crossroads now than it ever has in the history of the nation.

The Founders Vision Included a Unique Franchise

The Federal system laid out and enacted by America's founders preserved significant rights of the original free states that came together in a compact forming a new nation.

There was an understanding that states would have different views and different approaches to self-governing, and that was considered a good thing.

Citizens were free to travel or move to any state of the union. Adventurous Americans have often exercised their option to seek out greener pastures—or make it in the big city.

Currently, between the COVID era, and the elite co-option and irregularities that marked the 2020 elections, more people have been voting with their feet.

Whether the mass exodus from New York City, the flight from California to Nevada and Texas, or the general drain from the Northeast to points south and West, Americans are utilizing their federal system “franchise.”

States like Florida and Texas, which had already been gaining in population and Congressional representation, have only seen that trend accelerate with COVID.

New York and California, meanwhile, despite being geographically gifted and historically leading states, continue to sap themselves via political regimes that are driving longtime natives away.

New York, for example, hits residents with combined state and local taxes that are crushingly high compared to other states. And though state debt is down somewhat in recent years, at 27.4 percent of income, it still is the highest in the country.

New Yorkers are overburdened with regulations (where New York ranks 48th, ahead of only New Jersey and California). Land use freedom is rated as poor, but a portion of that owes to NYC's rent control.

CI gives points to the Empire State for relatively low incarceration rates, but fails to mention the significant uptick in violent crime. And “nonviolent” property theft and other “victimless” crimes like drug peddling don’t appear to register with CI’s freedom index methodology.

The libertertarian think tank, which offers advice to each state to improve freedoms, says about New York: “Cut all taxes and pay down debt.”

But its prescription for improving personal freedom in the state is odd indeed. Ending vaccine mandates for the SUNY school system? Not mentioned.

Cato focuses on cigarette taxes: “Slash cigarette taxes, which are so high as to be almost tantamount to prohibition.”

States Where Freedom Reigns

Florida isn’t just for retirees, as the CI report notes: “the state attracts more than seniors, as others vote with their feet for good weather and the increased opportunity afforded by Florida’s freer society.”

Low taxes, “right-to-work” laws and limits on “exclusionary zoning” (where localities have wide powers to block land use and development) are cited as features that have made Florida attractive.

But again, the stands that Florida has taken during COVID under leading Governor Ron DeSantis are ignored in the report.

DeSantis took tremendous heat resisting lockdowns and business restrictions. His administration worked to keep schools open for in-person learning. And Florida fought the feds to get therapeutics like monoclonal antibodies to people, instead of so-called “vaccine” gene therapies.

The COVID policies of states like Florida, Texas, Tennessee and South Dakota have not gone unnoticed by Americans who value freedom.

But the Cato report chooses not to address any of that. It's a failing that renders the 2021 edition a flawed measure of true current freedom in the 50 states.

The interactive edition of the report can be viewed [here](#).

TRENDS IN HI-TECH SCIENCE



By *Ben Daviss*

READY FOR THE NEXT VIRUS

Between jobs when the COVID virus struck, a biologist teamed up with his supercomputer-expert buddy to browse through the 16 petabytes of genomic sequence data that had been uploaded to the cloud by the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

Sixteen petabytes of computer space is a lot— 10^{15} bytes, enough to store a digital file of each of the more than 332 million people who live in the U.S.

These particular files contain genomic sequences gathered from everything from farm soils to tropical fish to the insides of human intestines.

Rummaging through the files, the pair wanted to see what other coronaviruses might be lurking undiscovered in the world around us.

They not only found nine that hadn't been seen before, but also about 132,000 other RNA viruses previously unknown to science, including 30 related to hepatitis Delta, which causes liver failure, and giant viruses that were in both the samples taken from a Bangladeshi man and dogs and cats in Britain.

To sift through the raw data, the pair devised software that carried out the scans faster than had been previously possible, rifling through a million genomes a day at a cost of less than a cent each.

The group, which gathered several expert collaborators along the way, has made their tools and data available publicly.

The world's collection of genomes and DNA data is expanding so fast that, by the end of the decade, 100 million new viruses could be identified, the researchers said.

TRENDPOST: *Viruses are the family of pathogens that we know the least about. This foundational work gives medical science an entire library of new viruses as well as information that can tell researchers whether they're benign or dangerous, what kinds of illnesses they might cause, and how they could be counteracted.*

The tools and newfound genomes will enable researchers to design vaccines for coronaviruses that have yet to cause human sickness, as well as treatments for previously unknown viruses causing a spectrum of illnesses and conditions.

More broadly, the tools and data can help virologists match these newly discovered viruses to human ailments, understand how viruses evolve, which are related, and how they might leap from animals to humans.

HEAT YOURSELF, NOT THE WHOLE ROOM



Energy efficiency is the best way to cut fuel use, fuel expense, and carbon waste and VTT, Finland's high-tech skunkworks, has found a new way to apply that principle.

Researchers there have developed thin, flexible, plastic-free heat sheets.

The sheets, thinner than a piece of printer paper, can be dropped on a couch seat, on a floor to heat your feet, on a car seat, or attached to a wall to radiate heat exactly when and where it's needed, in the same way that a pair of heated gloves or socks focuses heat right where you want it, not everywhere on your body.

The sheets' heating elements can be plugged into regular wall sockets or draw power from rechargeable batteries that can be attached.

The skinny pads are printed on rolls, can be cut to any size, and can be bent, rolled, or folded to fit almost anywhere. They need no other backing or support layer.

The pads also can be heated to 130°C, or about 266°F, so they can sterilize surfaces.

The Hot Delivery Co., a Grubhub-style food delivery operation, is testing the heat sheets in its bags that keep meals hot in transit.

Future iterations of the sheets will be able to recognize individuals and automatically turn on and set heat to the level the person prefers, the developers said.

TRENDPOST: Turning down thermostats one degree can save about 5 percent in heating costs.

Localizing heat anywhere—in your car, on the floor at your workbench, or on the seat of your favorite chair—could be key to reducing energy waste, boosting efficiency, and saving money while cutting the world’s demand for oil and gas.

VTT’s innovation is likely to debut in the commercial market by 2026.



VTT’s precision heat sheets. Credit: VTT

HERE’S WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THOSE USED PAPER FACE MASKS



No, not that.

After two years of COVID, the world likely is wading in close to a trillion used, disposable paper and plastic masks, by some estimates.

For those not blowing down the street, drifting into our oceans, or swelling our landfills, Russia's National University of Science and Technology has found that they can be turned into pretty decent batteries.

After using ultrasound to disinfect the masks, the engineers dipped them into a graphene-based ink. Next, they compacted the masks and heated them to 140 °C, or 284 °F, and turned them into current-conducting pellets that work just like the electrodes of a battery.

These novel electrodes are then separated by a layer of insulation, also made from used masks, and the whole package is soaked in an electrolyte. Finally, the cell is covered by a plastic shell that, appropriately enough, is made from plastic salvaged from drug makers' blister packs.

The result: the batteries showed an energy density of 99.7 watt-hours, nearing the threshold of their lithium-ion counterparts, which normally yield 100 to 265 watt-hours.

Even better, when the batteries were dosed with calcium-cobalt nanoparticles, their power more than doubled to 208 watt-hours.

The cells also held 82 percent of their capacity after 1,500 cycles and could deliver power for up to 10 hours.

If that's too much trouble to take with used masks, the University of Australia is pulverizing them and including the powder in its recycled road-paving material, made primarily of ground-up concrete rubble.

TRENDPOST: *These are creative and useful ways to turn waste to a useful purpose, but who will collect all those billions of masks and how? There are miles to go between a proof of concept and a practical application.*

Maybe a system will be in place to repurpose the masks when the next unchecked virus arrives.

Meanwhile, Russia's example is a good reminder that trash from one process is raw material for another.